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THE HINDU

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Harshal, Maxwell and batters help RCB beat CSK
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NEARBY

PSI exam scam: Successful candidates move tribunal

BENGALURU

The row over the process of selection to 545 posts of Police Sub-Inspectors on Monday reached the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal, with some successful candidates questioning the State Government's decision to conduct re-examination.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

Skywalk project hits a roadblock

BENGALURU

Weekend or weekday, for pedestrians attempting to cross the busy Mysuru Road near Kengeri Traffic and Transit Management Centre metro station, it is a daily risk they take competing with speeding vehicles. Towering over them is a pedestrian infrastructure holding the key to their problem.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

'All Karnataka RTCs have high punctuality'

BENGALURU

The Government road transport corporations (RTCs) have maintained high punctuality , according to the latest report (2022) of the Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA) of the State Government.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 5

RBI surprises with 40 bps rate increase, amid inflation 'alarm'

'Inflationary pressures becoming acute'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a sudden move on Wednesday, raised the repo rate by 40 basis points (bps) to 4.4% citing inflation that was globally "rising alarmingly and spreading fast". The repo rate increase was the first since August 2018.

In an unscheduled announcement, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had in an off-cycle meeting reviewed the latest economic developments including the impact of the war in Ukraine and decided to increase the policy interest rates in a bid to curb accelerating inflation.

"As the war draws on and sanctions and retaliatory actions intensify, shortages, volatility in commodity and financial markets, supply dislocations and, most alarmingly, persistent and spreading inflationary pressures are becoming more acute with every passing day," Mr. Das noted.

Observing that domestic inflation in April was also expected to be elevated, he said, "The MPC judged that the inflation outlook warrants an appropriate and timely response... to ensure that the second-round effects of supply side shocks on the economy are contained and long-term inflation expectations are kept firmly anchored".

Unexpected move | The increase in repo rate — the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks — to 4.40% from a record low of 4% is the first since August 2018. The graph shows repo rates since May 2017

Our monetary policy actions... will strengthen and consolidate the medium-term growth prospects of the economy
SHAKTIKANTA DAS
RBI GOVERNOR

'Accommodative' stance

The MPC, however, retained its 'accommodative' policy stance even as it focuses on withdrawal of accommodation to keep inflation within the target range while supporting growth.

As part of the withdrawal of accommodation, the RBI also raised the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4.5% with effect from May 21 so as to drain surplus liquidity of about ₹87,000 crore.

Asserting that the fundamentals of the Indian economy remained strong, Mr. Das said, "Our monetary policy actions... will strengthen and consolidate the medium-term growth prospects of the economy".

He pointed out that sustained high inflation "inevitably hurts savings, investment, competitiveness and output growth".

As part of the increases, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate would become 4.15% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) and bank rate would be 4.65%.

"These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%," the MPC noted.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
INEVITABLE INCREASE ▸ EDITORIAL

Sensex slumps as lenders wilt

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Sensex plummeted 1,307 points, or 2.29%, to 55,669, after the Reserve Bank of India raised benchmark interest rates in a surprise move. Stocks in the index pack that lost the most value were Bajaj Finance, which fell 4.29%, Bajaj Finserv (4.18%), Titan (4.11%), IndusInd Bank (3.98%) and HDFC Bank (3.34%). Similarly, the NSE Nifty-50 index fell 319.50 points, or 2.29%, to 16,677.60.

FULL REPORT ON ▸ PAGE 14

President has no role to play in Perarivalan's plea, says SC

Governor had no authority to transfer mercy plea: Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday disagreed with the Central government's suggestion that the court should wait till the President took a call on Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict A.G. Perarivalan's mercy plea referred to him by the Tamil Nadu Governor for a decision.

A Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and B.R. Gavai said the Centre had missed the obvious question posed by the court by a mile. The pertinent question was whether the Governor had, in the first place, the authority to refer the mercy plea to the President.

Under Article 161 of the Constitution, the Governor was bound by the aid and advice given by the Tamil Nadu Council of Ministers in September 2018 to the Governor to release Perarivalan, who has already served over 30 years of his life sentence. The Governor *prima facie* had no authority to transfer the mercy plea to the President. There was no role for the President here under the Constitution, the court told Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj, for the Centre.

"We cannot shut our eyes to something that is happening against the Constitution. We have to follow our Bible – the Constitution of India," Justice Rao addressed the Centre.

The question whether the Governor was right in referring the State Cabinet's wish to the President, instead of exercising his duty under Article 161, has to be decided by the court
JUSTICE L. NAGESWARA RAO
SUPREME COURT

Justice Gavai said no authority, however high, could put a spoke in the working of the Constitution.

Mr. Nataraj urged the court, "The file has been referred by the Governor to the President. If the President refers it (mercy plea) back to the Governor, there is no need to discuss this issue at all... The President himself will decide if the Governor could have referred the file to him or not. Leave it to the President to take a call on whether to pardon or reject or send the file back to the Governor...".

Justice Rao shot back, "We thought it was our duty to interpret the law and not the President's... The question whether the Governor was right in referring the State Cabinet's wish to the President, instead of exercising his duty under Article 161, has to be decided by the court".

Justice Gavai said there had been ample time for the Centre to return the mercy plea file to the Governor.

Mr. Nataraj said, "No, it was only recently the file came to us".

Justice Gavai told Mr. Nataraj, "The Governor decided to send the file to the President on January 27, 2021... It is May 5, 2022 today... And you are saying it came to you only 'recently'? This is a matter concerning personal liberty".

Mr. Nataraj persisted, "The man is out on bail".

Justice Rao reminded the Centre, "But he has a Damocles' sword hanging over him". The court said Perarivalan was not interested in these "finer questions of law".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Govt. set to lease deemed forest land to encroachers

Revenue Minister announces rates for different slabs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Government has decided to give deemed forest land to persons who have encroached upon them on a 30-year lease with fixed rates, depending on the extent of the land.

Revenue Minister R. Ashok on Wednesday said that about 6.64 lakh hectares of the State's 9.94 lakh hectares of deemed forest land would be denotified and handed over to the Revenue Department.

The Government would use the land to find a solution to the perennial problem of 'bagair hukum' cultivation, which refers to unauthorised cultivation on government land, which is prevalent in Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, among other districts.

After the land is handed over by the Forest Department, the Revenue Department will identify how much land would be needed for public projects such as hospitals and colleges. About 5 lakh hectares would be given to farmers, Mr. Ashok told presspersons.

In Kodagu, 12,000 acres are under encroachment, 30,000 acres in Hassan, and 45,000 acres in Chikkamagaluru. Commercial crops such as coffee and cardamom are being cultivated on the encroached land. The land would be given to the encroachers on a 30-year lease.

Mr. Ashok said the yearly lease amount would be fixed based on the size of the land: ₹1,500-₹2,000 for one to two acres, ₹2,000-₹2,500 for three to five acres, and ₹2,500-₹3,000 for five acres and more. Till now, the encroachers have enjoyed possession of the land without paying anything to the Government, the Minister said.

'Deemed forest' is defined as "land having the characteristic of forests irrespective of the ownership".

'NEET exemption Bill sent to Home Ministry'

Tamil Nadu CM terms development 'historic'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday informed the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly that Governor R. N. Ravi has forwarded the NEET exemption Bill to the Union Home Ministry to be sent to the President of India for his assent.

Terming the development 'historic', Mr. Stalin called upon all parties in the Assembly to come together and take all efforts to ensure that the President gives his assent to the Bill that was passed for the second time earlier this year after the Governor returned the previous Bill to the Assembly.

Mr. Stalin informed the Assembly that the Governor's secretary had spoken to him over the phone on Wednesday afternoon and informed him of the decision.

The Chief Minister recalled that all the parties (except the BJP) had taken part in the discussion on the Bill and the Assembly passed the Bill for a second time by sending it to the Governor.

Following this, Mr. Stalin said, he had met the Governor and had insisted that he send the Bill without delay to the Home Ministry.

He had also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on the issue.

Further, MPs of all political parties in the State had given a representation to the President's office seeking his assent to the Bill, Mr. Stalin said.

Policyholders' bids at LIC IPO reach 1.9 times

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The LIC's public offer, India's biggest-ever IPO, saw the policyholders' portion being oversubscribed on the first day itself on Wednesday, though the overall subscription was just 0.66%.

The government aims to garner about ₹21,000 crore.

The LIC IPO is set to close on May 9. The issue period also includes bidding on May 7. The portion reserved for policyholders was subscribed 1.9 times, while that for employees was fully bid for on the first day itself, data on the BSE show.

However, demand from qualified institutional buyers and non-institutional investors was muted.

SC to look into 'sealed cover jurisprudence'

Media One ban comes up before court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday, in the *Media One* ban case, reiterated its intention to examine the legality of governments filing incriminating material in sealed covers without sharing the information with the accused/other party.

The court allowed the Union government more time to file its counter giving reasons for banning Kerala-based news channel *Media One*.

The issue of "sealed cover jurisprudence" came up in the previous hearing on March 15, when the Centre wanted to pass on to the court its internal files regarding the ban in a sealed cover.

But the Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud had objected to the government's move, asking why the government could not disclose the files to the channel. The court expressed its intention to examine the larger issue of "sealed cover jurisprudence", especially in the background of bans on media houses like *Media One*. It had asked senior lawyers like Rakesh Dwivedi and Additional Solicitors-General S.V. Raju and K.M. Nataraj to assist it in the endeavour.

Justice Chandrachud had said there were only a "small exception" of cases in which the court, for the benefit of the parties, accepted material in sealed covers. "Like in a case of child sexual abuse," he pointed out.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

MNS chief vows to continue stir

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Even as the police served notices to workers of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), party chief Raj Thackeray on Wednesday said the movement to shut down loudspeakers on mosques was not a one-day affair but would continue.

"All I am asking is that the State government should follow the Supreme Court order on decibel limits. Today 90% mosques had no morning *azan* on loudspeakers. I thank maulavis there for understanding our point.

Raj Thackeray at a press meet in Dadar, on Wednesday.
*EMMANUAL YOGINI

There are around 1,140 mosques in Mumbai, and as per my information, 135 played *azan* before 5 a.m. While my party workers are being served notice, what action will be taken on those 135 mosques," he asked at a press conference held at his home, Shivtirth.

He said Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Vishwas Nangre-Patil had assured him that no mosques would play *azan* on loudspeakers. "Let me be clear that this is not a one-day affair. We will continue doing it hereafter," he stated.

Few MNS workers were detained by the police after Mr. Thackeray's order on Tuesday to play *Hanuman Chalisa* in front of mosques.

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Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Wheat production dips

105 In million tonnes (MT), the official estimate of wheat production revised by the Indian government as against the earlier projection of 111.32 MT, according to Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey. The downward revision of the wheat production by 5.7% is a result of the decrease in the crop productivity, due to the early onset of summer. India's wheat production stood at 109.59 MT in the 2020-21 crop year. The government's wheat procurement is expected to fall to 19.5 MT in the 2022-23 marketing year. PTI

RBI hikes interest rates

40 In basic points (bps), the increase in the benchmark lending rate of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to 4.4%, according to the Central bank after an unscheduled Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. The step was taken to contain inflation that has remained stubbornly above the target of 6% for the last three months. The MPC headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also raised the amount of deposits banks are required to maintain as cash reserve by 50 bps to 4.5% to suck out ₹87,000 crores of liquidity from the banking system. PTI

Excluded products

1,157 The number of products excluded by India from the ambit of the free trade pact with the UAE. Products such as television units, picture tubes, soaps, toys, footwear, instant coffee, sharbat, and petroleum waxes, were excluded from free trade. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which was signed in February, came into force on May 1. The CEPA is likely to benefit about $26 billion worth of Indian products that are subjected to 5% import duty by the UAE. PTI

Acute food insecurity

193 In million, the number of people in 53 countries who suffered acute food insecurity in 2021, according to the UN. The organisation attributed the food crisis to a "toxic triple combination" of conflict, weather extremes and the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The UN said the total number of people without adequate food every day increased by 40 million last year, confirming a "worrisome trend" of annual increases over several years. The figures appeared in the Global Report on Food Crisis. AP

Afro Latino identity

6 In million, the number of adults in the U.S. who identify as Afro Latino, a distinction with deep roots in colonial Latin America, according to a new report by Pew Research Center. That's about 2% of the adult U.S. population and 12% of the country's adult Latino population. The centre released its latest report on Monday. revealing the multiple dimensions of Latino identity. Afro Latinos' life experiences are shaped by factors including race and skin tone in ways that differ from other Hispanics. Most but not all identify as Hispanic or Latino, the survey found. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The status of GST compensation dues

Why are funds owed to the States delayed? Are cess collections not growing fast enough? Will the compensation period be extended beyond five years?

THE GIST

- Last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that several non-BJP ruled States had failed to cut taxes on fuel products. Some of the States countered that due to pending dues from the Centre including that of compensation for implementing GST it made it difficult for them to lower fuel taxes.
- The Finance Ministry responded that outstanding GST compensation dues to States for 2021-22 stood at ₹78,704 crore. It said that it was unable to pay the dues owing to 'inadequate balance' in the compensation cess collections fund.
- If States get a larger share of the higher GST collections clocked in April and May, (₹1.42 lakh crore and over ₹1.67 lakh crore respectively) it would help them push capital spending to plan and execute public infrastructure projects quicker.

VIKAS DHOOT

The story so far: At a meeting with Chief Ministers last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that several non-BJP ruled States had failed to cut taxes on fuel products whose prices have surged sharply since March and urged them to do so in the interest of giving relief to the people facing high inflation. Most of the States he referred to – West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Telangana, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh – countered the PM's pitch bluntly. West Bengal and Tamil Nadu said they had already reduced their VAT levies once. Maharashtra and Kerala pointed to States' resource constraints and pending dues from the Centre. The Mamata Banerjee administration said slashing State levies on petrol and diesel will be possible only if the Centre clears its outstanding dues of over ₹97,000 crore, which includes compensation for implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

What is the status of the outstanding GST compensation due to the States?

The GST regime entailed doing away with multiple State and Central levies to create a simplified tax system for businesses. As this meant that States had to give up several taxation powers in the process, they were assured that revenue losses will be compensated for five years. The compensation was to be calculated by assuming a 14% year-on-year growth over revenues in 2015-16 from the State taxes subsumed in GST, and remitted from a compensation cess fund backed by cess levies on sin and luxury goods like pan masala, tobacco, coal and cars.

Hours after the meeting, to counter these States' arguments about pending dues, the Finance Ministry said that outstanding GST compensation dues to States for 2021-22 stood at ₹78,704 crore, equivalent to four months of such accruals. This means that dues have been remitted to States for the eight-month period of April 2021 till November 2021. The ministry, which had last released GST compensation of ₹18,252 crore to States and Union Territories during March, indicated its inability to pay the dues immediately owing to 'inadequate balance' in the compensation cess collections fund. "Normally, compensation for 10 months from April-January of any financial year is released during that year and the compensation for February-March is released only in the next financial year. The pending amount will also be released as and when amount from cess accrues in the compensation fund," the Ministry assured.

On top of the ₹78,704 crore due to States, ostensibly for the period of December 2021 to March 2022, compensation for the April to June period – the last quarter for which such dues will accrue – also need to be arranged. Chief economist of rating agency ICRA Aditi Nayar has estimated that this could be another ₹60,000 crore, taking total dues that remain to be paid to States close to ₹1.4 lakh crore.

How much GST compensation has been paid so far to States and when will this cess levy end?

From July 2017 when the GST regime kicked off till now, about ₹7.35 lakh crore has been released as GST compensation to States. It had nearly doubled from ₹83,000 crore in 2018-19 to ₹1.65 lakh crore in 2019-20, before the pandemic hit the economy and revenue collections across the board. The Finance Ministry said that ₹2.78 lakh crore of compensation has been released to States for the year 2020-21 itself. Because GST as well as compensation cess inflows had dried up due to the COVID-19 lockdowns, as much as ₹1.1 lakh crore was financed through special borrowings from the market. In effect, the Centre borrowed these funds and lent them onwards to States as 'back-to-back' loans staggered through the year. Similarly, ₹1.59 lakh crore was raised in 2021-22 to pay States' compensation dues as per estimated shortfalls in the cess fund collections, and these funds were disbursed entirely by October by resorting to front-loading of the borrowings during the financial year. At the time, the Finance Ministry had expected the overall compensation payouts for the year to be ₹2.59 lakh crore, which it said would exceed the amount of compensation accruing to States in 2021-22, indicating it included pending compensation shortfalls for 2020-21.

The levy of the compensation cess, which was to cease on June 30 this year, has been extended till March 2025-26 with a view to use the receipts to repay the principal and interest on these special loans. Several States, worried about income sources falling off a cliff once the assured compensation ceases to accrue from July 1, have urged the Centre to extend the GST compensation period beyond the five-year promise. But these demands have been stymied so far, citing the legal provisions enabling GST, and are unlikely to gain traction.

Will the record GST collections in recent months help?

To the extent that States get a larger share of higher GST collections, of course. With April and May both clocking fresh highs in GST revenues of ₹1.42 lakh crore and over ₹1.67 lakh crore, the Centre and States' share, after making adjustments, was a robust ₹1.32 lakh crore and ₹1.36 lakh crore, respectively, over the two-month period. However, GST compensation cess collections are still not growing as rapidly as the overall kitty. Giving States some clarity on when outstanding GST compensation dues will be released, will help them plan their borrowings for the year, which will be particularly tricky from July. While the expected step-down in GST compensation flows from July 2023 may enlarge State borrowings this year, the timing of the release of the pending funds would impact their plans significantly, Ms. Nayar noted.

Moreover, with States expected to aggressively push capital spending this year, which is critical to spur growth, an early release of funds, be it the devolution of other tax collections, or GST compensation, would help them plan and execute public infrastructure projects quicker.

EXPLAINER

India's position on the World Press Freedom Index

On what indicators are countries ranked in the index? Which countries have improved their ranking?

G. SAMPATH

The story so far: India's ranking in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index has fallen to 150 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by the global media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders (RSF). In last year's report, India was ranked 142. The top three positions for countries with the highest press freedom were taken by the Nordic trio of Norway (a score of 92.65), Denmark (90.27) and Sweden (88.84).

What is RSF and what's the objective of this Index?

RSF is an international NGO whose self-proclaimed aim is to defend and promote media freedom. Headquartered in Paris, it has consultative status with the United Nations. The objective of the World Press Freedom Index, which it releases every year, "is to compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories" in the previous calendar year. The RSF defines press freedom as "the ability of journalists as individuals and collectives to select, produce, and disseminate news in the public interest independent of political, economic, legal, and social interference and in the absence of threats to their physical and mental safety."

What is the methodology used by RSF to assess and rank countries?

Countries are ranked after being assigned a score ranging from 0 to 100, with 100 representing the highest possible level of press freedom and 0 the worst. The scoring has two components: a quantitative one, that tallies abuses against journalists and media outlets, and a qualitative analysis based on the responses of press freedom specialists (journalists, researchers, human rights defenders) to an RSF questionnaire.

Countries are evaluated on five contextual indicators: political context, legal framework, economic context, socio-cultural context, and safety. For instance, the political context indicator considers, among other things, "the degree of support for the media in their role of holding politicians and government to account in the public interest". A 'subsidiary score' ranging from 0 to 100 is calculated for each indicator, and all the subsidiary scores together contribute to the 'global score'. India, which had a global score of 53.44 in the 2021 Index, could muster only 41 this time.

What are the findings with regard to world press freedom?

In terms of global trends, the report flags a "two-fold increase in polarisation amplified by information chaos – that is, media polarisation fuelling divisions within countries, as well as polarisation between countries at the international level." It notes that "within democratic societies, divisions are growing" due to the spread of "opinion media" modelled on *Fox News*, and the rise of "disinformation circuits" amplified by how social media functions.

While singling out Moldova (40th) and Bulgaria (91st) for drastic improvements in press freedom "thanks to a government change", it has classified the situation in 28 countries including Russia (155) and Belarus (153), as "very bad". The world's 10 worst countries for press freedom include Myanmar (176th), China (175), Turkmenistan (177th), Iran (178th), Eritrea (179th) and North Korea (180th).

What does the Index say about India?

The report states that in India, "the violence against journalists, the politically partisan media and the concentration of media ownership all demonstrate that press freedom is in crisis". Describing India as "one of the world's most dangerous countries for the media", the report notes that "journalists are exposed to all kinds of physical violence including police violence, ambushes by political activists, and deadly reprisals by criminal groups or corrupt local officials." It highlights that "supporters of Hindutva, the ideology that spawned the Hindu far-right, wage all-out online attacks on any views that conflict with their thinking."

What are the report's observations on India under various indicators?

Under 'political context', it states: "Originally a product of the anti-colonial movement, the Indian press used to be seen as fairly progressive but things changed radically in the mid-2010s, when Narendra Modi became prime minister and engineered a spectacular rapprochement between his party, the BJP, and the big families dominating the media." It highlights that "very early on, Modi took a critical stance vis-à-vis journalists, seeing them as 'intermediaries' polluting the direct relationship between himself and his supporters."

With regard to 'legal framework', the report notes that "Indian law is protective in theory but charges of defamation, sedition, contempt of court and endangering national security are increasingly used against journalists critical of the government". Under 'economic context', the report, describing Indian media as a "colossus with a feet of clay", points out that "media outlets largely depend on advertising contracts with local and regional governments" and "at the national level, the central government has seen that it can exploit this to impose its own narrative, and is now spending more than ₹130 billion (5 billion euros) a year on ads in the print and online media alone. "Finally, on the socio-cultural indicators of press freedom, the report, noting that "the enormous diversity of Indian society is barely reflected in the mainstream media," states that "for the most part, only Hindu men from upper castes hold senior positions in journalism or are media executives – a bias that is reflected in media content."

THE GIST

- India's ranking in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index has fallen to 150 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by Reporters Without Borders.
- Countries are evaluated on five contextual indicators: political context, legal framework, economic context, socio-cultural context, and safety.
- The report describes India as "one of the world's most dangerous countries for the media." It highlights that "supporters of Hindutva, the ideology that spawned the Hindu far-right, wage all-out online attacks on any views that conflict with their thinking."

Do you have a business in Punjab?

"Tell us what the Government can do to improve the ease of doing business in Punjab"

- **How to issue licenses smoothly? What unnecessary licenses can be done away with?**
- **What should be done to attract investment in Punjab?**
- **How can the Government support you in your sector?**

Please share more such suggestions.
Whether you are a small shopkeeper or a big industrialist, your inputs are equally important

Please send your suggestions to

punjabdabudget@gmail.com

You can even submit your suggestions at your local MLA Office or Dy. Commissioner Office

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

BIBLIOGRAPHY

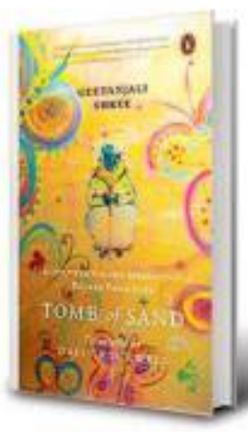
The 'dhwani' of one language in another

From India's wide array of regional literature, a body of work is slowly building in English translation

MINI KRISHNAN

To help us forget the physical and cultural storms around us, we have some cause for celebration: Geetanjali Shree's *Ret Samadhi* (Tomb of Sand), translated by Daisy Rockwell, is in an eye-popping final with translations from Korean, Norwegian, Japanese and Polish novels for the International Booker Prize. At last a selfie with one of our translated books on the international stage is possible – the announcement will be made on May 26. Of course the true test would be if an Indian translator, pummelled by an Indian editor and appearing under an Indian imprint, were to make it to the top of the dhwani pops.

Just before I wrote this, I happened to be reading T.K. Gopalan's English translation of Emile Littre's *How I Made My Dictionary* (Hachette India) in which I stopped at La Fontaine's reference to "the vast appetites of a maker of conquests." It seems to me that Indian translators today and their promoters, publishers, have just this: a vast appetite for shaping and providing echoes and approximations of original texts in English, from a few of our many languages. It is as if we as a fraternity have decided to boldly go where only one or two in a previous generation dared to go. Not every translation is top class and some books look better than they read, but a body of work is slowly building into a babel of different kinds of English.



Rich pickings

The trouble is in deciding what to publish when resources are limited and the winnings unpredictable but tempting. For instance, last month, a collection of Kannada stories from the early 20th century reached me. The sentiments and predicaments of that time seemed so remote from today's concerns that it was difficult to see how any of them might find an audience except among students of sociology or culture studies. Yet if they were not published, we would be depriving ourselves of a slice of our own history. Similarly, when a publisher receives an 80,000-word script which describes two centuries of the social history of a particular region fictionalised, he knows it deserves to be published but he also knows that it will take a year to sell 300 copies. And then we have a dizzying array of Indian literature to choose from.

The psychic medium is a description that any translator who has worked on writers long gone will accept with glad recognition.

Translators live off the differences between languages while struggling to eliminate the same. Editors live in the spaces they believe they can close and therefore a degree of supportive manipulation is a given in any text.

For instance, Na Muthuswamy's *Bullocks from the West* (Westland) translated by David Shulman and S. Ramakrishnan is brimming with sentences like 'That was so that the wall would not get soaked in the rain' (page six) and 'I don't have clear memory of it all' (page nine) which I think an editor might have improved. But then is it right to dull native rhythm?

Every language has rich pickings. Sometimes a good novel makes for a bad translation. At other times, a baldly written memoir's translation makes it glow as it leads us into another age, turning us away from the gross and lighting up only the good bits like a skilled theatre techie trapping his audience's eyes with spotlights. The joy and discomfort of living with words! Which brings me back to Rockwell and her use of a term in her translator's note to *Tomb of Sand*: dhwani. How does a translator recreate the dhwani of the original text in English? "Dhwani is an echo, a vibration, a resonance," she writes. "Dhwani could be deliberate and playful, as in double entendre or punning, an accidental mishmash of sameness, or a mystical reverberation. Geetanjali often makes word choices that prioritise dhwani over dictionary meaning. Word play takes on a life of its own in many passages and sometimes even drives the narrative."

Listening to the reteller

Next to reading translator's notes something I enjoy is interviews with members of this very special tribe.

Many years ago, I read that Rockwell's translation of Upendranath Ashk's stories had taken more than 10 years to find its home with Penguin India.

Here is an account of what she said about the author-translator relationship. "I think about this all the time. Sometimes, when I am feeling down, I think of it as slave and master (where I'm the slave). Sometimes it's more like heckled, but slightly conniving wife and domineering but gullible husband (the translator is the wife). When I'm feeling grandiose, then I'm a psychic medium channelling the spirit of the author."

The psychic medium is a description that any translator who has worked on writers long gone will accept with glad recognition. Many of them have described how they felt an invisible presence, a nudge, a benign pressure as they struggled to produce the dhwani of the text they chose – or which chose them.

The writer co-ordinates a translation programme for the TN Textbook & Educational Services Corporation

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir"

"Good morning."

"What's the difference between "meet" and "meet with," sir?

"You meet a person.

I met John yesterday.

He met Sita last month.

Meet means to come face to face with. Meet is different from see. When you say 'I saw him yesterday' it is not clear whether he saw you. But when you say 'I saw him yesterday and he said that he would help me,' I know that you had met him. Meet implies "arranged or accidental face to face meeting." Meet with means "to experience or find by chance."

I met with an accident last month.

You meet people.

You meet with an accident.

Meet with is used in the sense of meet in American English.

I met with him yesterday.

Some are of the view that American 'meet with' is used when lengthy discussions are involved. There is no basis for this view. Meet with is American for meet. In American English 'meet with' is also used in the sense of 'to experience or find by chance'."

"What's the difference between an agnostic and an atheist, sir?"

"An agnostic neither affirms nor denies the existence of God. An atheist denies the existence of God. An agnostic says that God may or may not exist. An atheist says God doesn't exist."

"What's the difference between 'although' and 'though', sir?"

"There is no difference whatsover. But although is used in formal contexts. Normally you use though."

"What's the difference between 'He almost sold his house' and 'He has sold almost all his books'?"

He almost sold his house means that he was on the point of selling it but did not sell it. He has sold almost all his books means that he has sold most of his books but some are still with him.

He gave almost everything to me.

This means he retained a few things with him."

"What is the difference between defective and deficient, sir?"

"When something is faulty, you say it is defective.

The machine is defective.

He has defective eyesight.

Deficient means "lacking in." We talk about mental deficiency, vitamin deficiency.

He is deficient in vitamin B.

Deficient is associated with deficit and defective with defect. Generally, defective is used when quality is involved and deficient is used when quantity is involved."

"How do you pronounce the word tier in 'three tier', 'two tier', sir?"

"Tier rhymes with cheer, fear, near and dear. Well, this is enough for the day. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

German philosopher and revolutionary Karl Marx was born on May 5, 1818. Here's a quiz on some well-known Marxist leaders and political figures.

1 This politician was president of Venezuela from 1999 until his death in 2013. He defined his political position as 'Bolivarianism', an ideology he developed from Simón Bolívar, the South American independence hero. Name the politician.

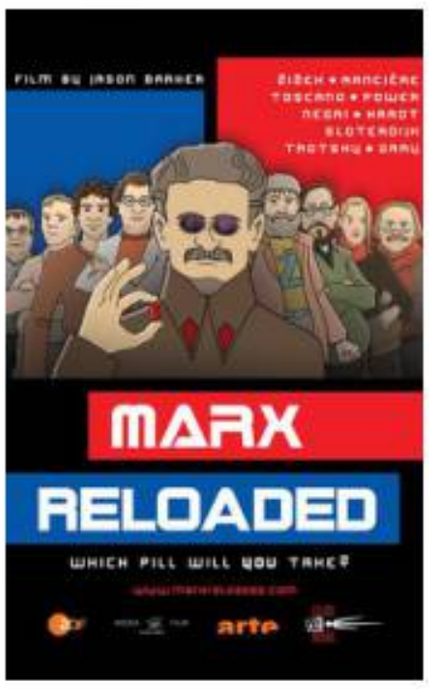
2 Alberto Korda was a Cuban photographer best known for his photograph of an Argentine leader, which he titled 'Guerrillero Heroico'. By the end of the 1960s, the photograph had established this leader as a cultural icon. Today, this powerful image is ubiquitous in art and culture, and is an emblem for an array of causes. Which leader did Korda photograph?

3 The Bay of Pigs invasion was a failed landing operation in Cuba in 1961 by Cuban exiles who opposed the Cuban Revolution. The invasion was also the first CIA attempt to assassinate a Cuban revolutionary who led Cuba from 1959 to 2008. Which Cuban leader were the CIA trying to eliminate?

4 An Indian communist and politician, this leader served as the first Chief Minister of Kerala. Additionally, as a member of the Communist Party of India, he became the first non-Congress Chief Minister in the Indian republic. Name this leader.

5 When this activist was arrested for her alleged involvement in a shooting, thousands of people across the United States organised movements supporting her release. John Lennon and Yoko Ono were among those who contributed to this campaign. Name this activist who is today a leading voice on race, gender and the U.S. prison system.

6 While this politician was not among the leading poets of his generation, he was trained in Chinese classical literature. Some of his well-known poems are *Changsha*, *Loushan Pass*, and *The PLA Captures Nanjing*. Name the author of these poems, better known for being the first Chairman of the People's Republic of China.



◄ Marx Reloaded is a 2011 German documentary film that examines the relevance of Karl Marx's ideas to the Great Recession. Which popular science-fiction film is the title a wordplay on?

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This term came into use in 1759 and was used to denote entities that were 'found buried in the earth.' **Ans: Fossil fuels**

2. X is the highest rank of coal and Y or 'brown coal' is the lowest grade of coal. **Ans: X - Anthracite, Y - Lignite**

3. The two Indian territories that are not connected to the National Grid. **Ans: Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep**

4. This 2012 Bollywood film revolves around the coal mafia of Dhanbad. **Ans: Gangs of Wasseypur**

5. This set of natural gas pipelines from Russia to Germany have been staunchly opposed by several nations due to concerns that it would increase Russia's influence in Europe. **Ans: Nord Stream**

6. The country, among Iran, Iraq, Venezuela, UAE, Saudi Arabia, which is not a founding members of the OPEC. **Ans: UAE**

7. The mythical fire-breathing creature associated with the gas flames near ancient Lycia. **Ans: Chimaera**

Visual: The logo of this Indian government-owned oil and gas producer. **Ans: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**

Early Birds: Abhishek Anurag| Priyadarshan Sharma| Deepak Papnai| Madhukar Thalore| Jahnavi Taak

Compiled by: Ranjani Srinivasan

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

The Corporation was established as 'Life Insurance Corporation of India' on September 1, 1956 under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. For details of change in the central office of the Corporation, see *"History and Certain Corporate Matters – Changes in central office of the Corporation"* on page 272 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated April 26, 2022 ("**RHP**").

Central office: Yogakshema, Jeevan Bima Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021, Maharashtra, India.
Contact Person: Pawan Agrawal, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; **Tel:** +91 22 2202 2079; **E-mail:** Investors@licindia.com; **Website:** www.licindia.in; **IRDAI Registration number:** 512

OUR PROMOTER: THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF UP TO 221,374,920 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA ("THE CORPORATION" OR THE "ISSUER") THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 221,374,920 EQUITY SHARES BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ("SELLING SHAREHOLDER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE ("OFFER PRICE"), AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (THE "OFFER").
THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO 1,581,249 EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO 0.025% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL), FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE(S) (THE "EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION") AND A RESERVATION OF UP TO 22,137,492 EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO 0.35% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL) FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE POLICYHOLDER(S) ("POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION"). THE CORPORATION AND THE SELLING SHAREHOLDER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS ("BRLMS"), SHALL OFFER (I) A DISCOUNT OF UP TO [●]% OF THE OFFER PRICE (EQUIVALENT OF ₹ 45 PER EQUITY SHARE) TO THE RETAIL INDIVIDUAL BIDDERS BIDDING IN THE RETAIL PORTION ("RETAIL DISCOUNT"), (II) A DISCOUNT OF UP TO [●]% OF THE OFFER PRICE (EQUIVALENT OF ₹ 45 PER EQUITY SHARE) TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE(S) BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION ("EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT"), AND (III) A DISCOUNT OF UP TO [●]% OF THE OFFER PRICE (EQUIVALENT OF ₹ 60 PER EQUITY SHARE) TO THE ELIGIBLE POLICYHOLDER(S) BIDDING IN THE POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION ("POLICYHOLDER DISCOUNT"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION AND POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE 3.5% AND 3.13%, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF THE CORPORATION.

QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer

PRICE BAND: ₹ 902 TO ₹ 949 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH
A DISCOUNT OF ₹ 45 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO RETAIL INDIVIDUAL BIDDERS BIDDING IN THE RETAIL PORTION AND ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION.
A DISCOUNT OF ₹ 60 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE POLICYHOLDERS BIDDING IN THE POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION.
THE FLOOR PRICE IS 90.2 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 94.9 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES
BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 15 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 15 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER

Risks to Investors:

- For Fiscal 2019, Fiscal 2020, Fiscal 2021 and the nine months ended December 31, 2021, the Corporation had a market share of 66.4%, 66.2%, 64.1% and 61.6%, respectively, in terms of total premium in the Indian life insurance sector.
- The entire Net Proceeds will be paid to the President of India and the Corporation will not receive any proceeds of the Offer.
- Our individual agents procure most of our individual new business premiums. If we are unable to retain and recruit individual agents on a timely basis and at reasonable cost, there could be a material adverse effect on our results of operations.
- The Corporation is not a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and is established and governed as per the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder. Accordingly, the Corporation is not subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The Market capitalization / Embedded Value ratio based on Embedded Value as at September 30, 2021 for the Corporation at the upper end of the Price Band is 1.11, compared to the average industry peer group Market capitalization / Embedded Value of 3.41 (simple average basis). Potential investors may note that the Embedded Value of the Corporation could be sensitive to the equity markets given the size of the equity investment portfolio of the Corporation.
- Average Cost of acquisition of Equity Shares for the Selling Shareholder is ₹ 0.16 each and Offer Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 949.
- Details of Acquisition of all Equity Shares transacted in last three years and one year:

Period	Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition (in ₹)	Upper end of the Price Band (₹ 949) is 'X' times the Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition	Range of Acquisition Price: Lowest Price-Highest Price (in ₹)
Last 1 year	0.16	5,931	Nil*-10.00**
Last 3 years	0.16	5,931	Nil*-10.00**

**Represents acquisition price of equity shares pursuant to bonus issue. **The paid-up equity capital of the Corporation was ₹1,000 million (provided held by the GoI) prior to amendment to the Life Insurance Corporation Act by the Finance Act, 2021 ("Amendment"). Pursuant to the Amendment, the Corporation was required, with the previous approval of the GoI, to issue Equity Shares to the GoI in consideration for the paid-up equity capital provided by the GoI as it stood before the coming into force of Section 131 of the Finance Act, 2021.*

- Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Fiscals 2021, 2020 and 2019 is 182.25%.
- The Ten Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Offer have handled 70 public issues in the past 3 years out of which 23 issues closed below the issue price on listing date.

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME**

BID/OFFER OPEN

BID/OFFER CLOSES ON MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022* (THE BID/ OFFER PERIOD SHALL ALSO INCLUDE BIDDING ON SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022)

**On account of Bid / Offer Closing Date i.e. Monday, May 9, 2022, being a public holiday in the state of West Bengal, potential Bidders located or residing in West Bengal are requested to ensure that they take necessary steps for completion of the Bidding process (including submission of Application Form or Revision Form, as the case may be, in the manner indicated in the RHP) prior to Monday, May 9, 2022.*

***Solely in relation to the Offer, the Bids and any revision in such Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors) can be made until 7 p.m. IST on each day during the Bid / Offer Period (except the Bid/ Offer Closing Date). On the Bid/Offer Closing Date (a) submission and revision in Bids shall be made till 3 p.m. IST; (b) Bids by QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders shall be uploaded till 4 p.m. IST; and (c) Bids by RIBs Bidding under Net Offer, Bids by Eligible Employee(s) and Eligible Policyholder(s) Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion and Policyholder Reservation Portion, respectively, shall be uploaded till 7 p.m. IST*

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, the Corporation may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, as applicable.
The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("**SCRR**") read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be allocated on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("**QIBs**", the "**QIB Portion**"). The Corporation has in consultation with the BRLMs, allocated up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations ("**Anchor Investor Portion**"), of which one-third was reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids having been received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price. Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Mutual Funds, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to RIBs in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. All potential Bidders (except Anchor Investors) are required to mandatorily utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("**ASBA**") process providing details of their respective ASBA accounts, and UPI ID in case of UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism, if applicable, in which the corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the SCSBs or under the UPI Mechanism, as the case may be, to the extent of respective Bid Amounts. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Offer through the ASBA process. For details, see "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 589 of the RHP.
Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and the Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk.
Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with Central Board of Direct Taxes notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021.

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE CORPORATION AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: The Corporation, being established under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, does not have a memorandum of association or articles of association. The Corporation is governed under the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, the rules issued thereunder, and the Insurance Act and the regulations and guidelines issued by the IRDAI, each only to the extent applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act.
LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION: Limited by shares.
AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF THE CORPORATION AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of the Corporation is ₹ 250,000,000,000 divided into 25,000,000,000 equity shares of ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up Equity share capital of the Corporation is ₹ 63,249,977,010 divided into 6,324,997,701 equity shares of ₹ 10 each. For details of the capital structure, see "Capital Structure" beginning on page 92 of the RHP.
NAMES OF THE INITIAL SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE CORPORATION AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The Corporation, being established under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, does not have a memorandum of association or articles of association. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of the Corporation see "Capital Structure" beginning on page 92 of the RHP.
LISTING: The Equity Shares offered through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. The Corporation has received 'in-principle' approvals from BSE and NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to letters each dated February 14, 2022. For the purposes of the Offer, the Designated Stock Exchange shall be BSE. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the RHP up to the Bid/ Offer Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 641 of the RHP.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF SEBI: SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities stated in the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 534 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE (The Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to the page 536 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 537 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF IRDAI: The IRDAI does not undertake any responsibility for the financial soundness of the Corporation or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed in this connection. Any issuance of observation by the IRDAI under the LIC General Regulations shall not in any manner be deemed to be or serve as a validation of the representations by the Corporation in the offer document.
GENERAL RISKS: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of the Corporation and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Offer have not been recommended or approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the RHP. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 24 of the RHP.

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Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

UPI-Now available in ASBA for UPI Bidders.**
Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. UPI – Now available in ASBA for UPI Bidders applying through Registered Brokers, DPs & RTAs.
Retail Individual Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account.

**ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors (as defined in the RHP). UPI may be availed by RIBs, Eligible Employees bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion, where made available by the broker through whom the Bidder is submitting the Bid, Eligible Policyholders bidding in the Policyholder Reservation Portion, where made available by the broker through whom the Bidder is submitting the Bid and Non-Institutional Bidders with an application size of up to ₹ 500,000 in the Non-Institutional Portion. Bidders who are Eligible Employees or Eligible Policyholders, as the case may be, are advised to confirm the same with his/her broker regarding availability of UPI mechanism prior to submission of Bids.*
*For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 589 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("**AIBI**"), the websites of BSE Limited ("**BSE**") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("**NSE**", and together with BSE, the "**Stock Exchanges**") and in the General Information Document. ASBA bid-cum application forms can be downloaded from the websites of Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in.*
***List of banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. For the list of UPI Apps and Banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI (https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=34) and (https://sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=40) respectively, as updated from time to time. Axis Bank Limited, HDFC Bank Limited and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited have been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Offer. For Offer related grievance or UPI related queries, investors may contact the BRLMs and Registrar to the Offer on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and E-mail Id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in; Axis Bank Limited at Tel: +91 91670 06951/ 52, +91 022 6817 6300 and E-mail: churchgate.branchhead@axisbank.com, churchgate.operationshead@axisbank.com; HDFC Bank Limited at Tel: +91 022 3075 2927/ 28/ 2914 and E-mail: Siddharth.Jadhav@hdfcbank.com, prasanna.uchil@hdfcbank.com, neerav.desai@hdfcbank.com; Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited at Tel: +91 022 6605 6588/ 6713 2416 and E-mail: cmspo@kotak.com and the Registrar to the Offer at Tel: +91 40 6716 2222 and E-mail: lic.ipo@kfintech.com.*

For any Offer related queries, investors may write on E-mail: lic.ipo@kfintech.com or call on Toll-free number: 1800 3094 001 or Whatsapp by typing 'Hi' to: +91 91000 94099.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

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Investor Grievance ID: kmccredressal@kotak.com
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SEBI Registration Number: INM000008704

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Investor Grievance ID: complaints@axiscap.in
Contact Person: Mayuri Arya
SEBI Registration Number: INM000012029

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Contact Person: Abhay Agarwal
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011625

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Investor Grievance ID: investors.cgmib@citi.com
Website: www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm
Contact Person: Huzefa Bodakhawala
SEBI Registration Number: INM000010718

Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited
951-A, Rational House
Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi
Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6616 9000
E-mail: licipo@gs.com
Website: www.goldmansachs.com
Investor Grievance ID: india-client-support@gs.com
Contact Person: Chirag Jasani
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011054

ICICI Securities Limited
ICICI Venture House
Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi
Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6807 7100
E-mail: lic.ipo@icicisecurities.com
Website: www.icicisecurities.com
Investor Grievance ID: customercare@icicisecurities.com
Contact Person: Samser Purohit/ Sumit Singh
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011179

JM Financial Limited
7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6630 3030/ 3262
E-mail: lic.ipo@jmfl.com
Website: www.jmfl.com
Investor Grievance ID: grievance.ibd@jmfl.com
Contact Person: Prachee Dhuri
SEBI Registration Number: INM000010361

J.P. Morgan India Private Limited
J.P. Morgan Tower, Off. C.S.T. Road
Kalina, Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6157 3000
E-mail: LIC_IPO@jpmorgan.com
Website: www.jpmipl.com
Investor Grievance ID: investorsmb.jpmipl@jpmorgan.com
Contact Person: Saarthak K Soni
SEBI Registration Number: INM000002970

Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited
Ceejay House, Level 11 Plot F, Shivsagar Estate,
Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400 018 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4037 4037
E-mail: licipo@nomura.com
Website: www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html
Investor Grievance ID: investorgrievances-in@nomura.com
Contact Person: Vishal Kanjani/Sandeep Baid
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011419

SBI Capital Markets Limited
202, Maker Tower "E", Cuffe Parade
Mumbai 400 005 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 2217 8300
E-mail: lic.ipo@sbicaps.com
Website: www.sbicaps.com
Investor Grievance ID: investor.relations@sbicaps.com
Contact Person: Sambit Rath/Mounika T
SEBI Registration Number: INM000003531

REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER

KFin Technologies Limited
Selenium, Tower B, Plot No- 31 and 32
Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda,
Serilingampally, Hyderabad 500 032 Telangana, India
Tel: +91 40 6716 2222; **E-mail:** lic.ipo@kfintech.com
Investor Grievance ID: einward.ris@kfintech.com
Website: www.kfintech.com
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SEBI Registration Number: INR000000221

COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Pawan Agrawal
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Yogakshema, Jeevan Bima Marg
Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 2202 2079; **E-mail:** Investors@licindia.com
Website: www.licindia.in

Investors can contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, the BRLMs or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related problems, such as non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode.

AVAILABILITY OF RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the "Risk Factors" beginning on page 24 of the RHP before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP will be made available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, the websites of the BRLMs, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmipl.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com and the websites of the Stock Exchanges, for BSE at www.bseindia.com and for NSE at www.nseindia.com.
AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORM: Bid cum Application Form can be obtained from the Central Office of the Corporation, **LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA:** Tel: +91 22 2202 2079; **BRLMs: Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4336 0000; **Axis Capital Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4325 2183; **BofA Securities India Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6632 8000; **Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6175 9999; **Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6616 9000; **ICICI Securities Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6807 7100; **JM Financial Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6630 3030/ 3262; **J.P. Morgan India Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6157 3000; **Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4037 4037 and **SBI Capital Markets Limited**, Tel: +91 22 2217 8300; **Syndicate Members: Investec Capital Services (India) Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6849 7400; **JM Financial Services Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6136 3400; **Kotak Securities Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6218 5470 and **SBICAP Securities Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4227 3300 /69316100 and at selected locations of Sub-Syndicate Members (as given below), Registered Brokers, SCSBs, Designated RTA Locations and Designated CDP Locations for participating in the Offer. Bid cum Application Forms will also be available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and at all the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.
SUB-SYNDICATE MEMBERS: Achievers Equities Limited; Ajcon Global Services Limited; Alankit Assignments Limited; Almondz Global Securities Limited; Amrapali Capital & Finance Services Ltd.; Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Limited; Anand Share Consultancy; ANS Pvt Limited; Ashwani Dandia & Co; Axis Securities Limited; Centrum Broking Limited; Centrum Wealth Management Ltd.; Choice Equity Broking Private Limited; Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Private Limited; DB(International) Stock Brokers Ltd.; Dhani Stocks Limited; Edelweiss Broking Limited; Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Limited; G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited; Globe Capital Market Limited; ICICI Securities Limited; IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Limited; IIFL Securities Ltd.; Innovate Securities Pvt Limited; Jhaveri Securities; Jobanputra Fiscal Services Private Limited; Kalpataru Multiplier Limited; Kantilal Chhaganlal Sec Pvt Ltd.; Keynote Capitals Limited; KJMC Capital Market Services Limited; Lakshmishree Investment & Securities Pvt Limited; LKP Securities Limited; Inventure Growth & Securities Ltd.; Marwadi Shares & Finance; Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited; Motilal Oswal Securities Limited; Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt. Ltd.; Ohm Securities; Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited; Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Limited; Pravin Ratilal Share and Stock Brokers Ltd.; RR Equity Brokers Private Limited; Safal Capital (India) Limited; Sharekhan Limited; SMC Global Securities Limited; Systematix Shares and Stocks (India) Limited; Tanna Financial Services; Trade Bulls Securities (P) Ltd.; Trust Financial Consultancy Services Pvt Limited; Viren M Shah; Way2Wealth Brokers Private Limited and Yes Securities (India) Limited.
ESCROW COLLECTION BANK/ REFUND BANK / PUBLIC ISSUE BANK/ SPONSOR BANKS: Axis Bank Limited, HDFC Bank Limited and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited. | **UPI:** UPI Bidders can also Bid through UPI mechanism.
All capitalised terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

For **LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA**
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: Mumbai
Date: May 4, 2022

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public issue of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("**SEBI**") and the Stock Exchanges. The RHP shall be available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the book running lead managers, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmipl.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com, the website of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com and the website of the BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risks, see "Risk Factors" on page 24 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the draft red herring prospectus for any investment decision.
This announcement does not constitute an offer of securities for sale in any jurisdiction, including the United States, and any securities described in this announcement may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration under the U.S. Securities Act or an exemption from such registration. Any public offering of securities to be made in the United States will be made by means of a prospectus that may be obtained from the Corporation or the Selling Shareholder and that will contain detailed information about the Corporation and management, as well as financial statements. However, no public offering of securities in the United States is contemplated.

CONCEPT

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 05
RISE 05:58 SET 18:35
RISE 09:12 SET 22:31

FRIDAY, MAY. 06
RISE 05:57 SET 18:35
RISE 10:02 SET 23:21

SATURDAY, MAY. 07
RISE 05:57 SET 18:36
RISE 10:54 SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	34	21

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night will be comfortable. Spell of rain and thundershower wit gusty winds are likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C A warm and humid weather to prevail.Night also will be comfortable. One or two spells of rain and thundershower will occur.

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IN BRIEF

Water adalat today

BENGALURU

BWSSB will hold water adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. According to a release, grievances connected to water billing, delay in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delay in converting from domestic connection to non-domestic connection, and other related issues will be discussed and settled. Consumers can contact helpline #1916.

Skywalk project at Kengeri metro station hits a roadblock

Construction has been halted over 'pending bills'; BBMP cites other reasons

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

Weekend or weekday, for hundreds of pedestrians attempting to cross the busy Mysuru Road near Kengeri Traffic and Transit Management Centre (TTMC) metro station, it is a daily risk they take competing with speeding vehicles. Towering over them is a pedestrian infrastructure holding the key to their problem. But the contractor has allegedly stalled the construction work of the skywalk since the last few weeks over pending bills.

Pedestrians and metro passengers have demanded that the authorities expedite the construction work. • SUCHITH KIDIYOOR

The Kengeri TTMC metro station was opened to the public in August 2021. It has been over nine months since, the authorities are still buying time to provide a safe passage for pedestrians. Pedestrians and metro passengers who are risking their lives to cross the road have demanded the authorities to expedite the construction of the skywalk.

Chetan S., a regular user of the metro, said: "There are many residential localities around Kengeri TTMC metro station. The skywalk in the area has been a long-pending demand. The TTMC of BMTC, from where city buses are operated to various destinations, has been operational for over a decade. Despite that, no skywalk was constructed all these years. People have no option but to cross the busy road risking their lives."

Another daily commuter Pratham said: "In the interest of pedestrians, the authorities should expedite the work. It has been months, but the authorities are still buying time to complete the work. Disabled people are finding it difficult to reach both TTMC and metro stations."

The BMTC is operating 314 buses from the point and buses are operated on 15 routes to various destinations. Pedestrians demand that the skywalk should be linked with both the metro station and TTMC. Now, the contractor has built the structure just across the road.

Meanwhile, manning traffic in the area has been a challenge for the Kengeri traffic police. A senior officer said: "After we requested BMRCL, they have put up grills on the median. This has avoided jaywalking to a great extent. We have provided a passage for the pedestrians to cross the road near the under construction skywalk. In shifts, we have deployed our staff so that pedestrians can safely cross the road. When the skywalk work gets completed, it will be a big relief. It is said that work has been stalled over pending bills. "

However, when contacted about the delay in completing the works, an official of the BBMP said: "The contractor has stalled the work over clearance from BESCOM and other utilities. The work will be completed in a month. There are no issues with bills."

Accessing metro stations is a major concern on busy roads such as Mysuru Road and Tumakuru Road.

For example, BMRCL had proposed to build a skywalk at multiple locations on Tumkuru Road to connect the metro stations that are located on the right side of the road, but barring Nagasandra metro station, no skywalks are available for other stations.

There is a long-pending demand to build a skywalk connecting the metro station with the railway station at Yeshwanthpur and Jnanabharathi station with the halt station as well.

New 3D printed gloves could transform stroke treatment

Device developed by IISc. researchers can be remotely controlled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The 3D printed gloves.

Aiming to help stroke victims, researchers in the Department of Physics at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) have developed a soft, wearable device that exploits the fundamental properties of light to sense a patient's limb or finger movements. The customisable, 3D printed gloves can be remotely controlled, opening up the possibility of teleconsultation by physiotherapists.

According to the researchers, stroke is India's third leading cause of death, and the sixth leading cause of disability. Physiotherapy is one of the few treatments available for rehabilitating stroke victims and patients with physical injuries, but it can take days to months depending on the severity of the disability, making it challenging for patients as well as their attendants.

"We wanted to develop something affordable, and available to a person at all times at their convenience. The product should be easy to use and must provide feedback," said Aveek Bid, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics, whose team has developed the device.

The researchers say that the device has been tested for stability for over 10 months, and no loss of sensitivity or accuracy was detected. The device has been entirely designed and manufactured in India, and is expected to cost less than ₹1,000. A patent has been filed, and the researchers hope to launch the device in the market soon.

Prof. Bid explained that quantifiable feedback - for example, the units of pressure applied while squeezing a ball or the degree of bending of a leg with a knee injury - is crucial for doctors to monitor the patient, even remotely. Such feedback can also motivate patients to perform better in every consecutive session.

Challenges

Another challenge is that physiotherapy often requires daily hospital visits. Home visits by professionals or sophisticated devices to monitor patients remotely, although ideal, are not readily available, and are expensive. To address these challenges, the team developed a mechanism by which customisable wearables, like hand gloves, can be designed, 3D printed, and controlled remotely.

"The idea behind the device is that you wear something like a glove, the physiotherapist controls the device from a remote location through the internet, and makes your hands and fingers move," according to Prof. Bid.

The device can sense various hand and finger movements, and precisely detect parameters like pressure, bending angle and shape.

The technology that drives the device is based on the fundamental properties of light: refraction and reflection.

"The device is highly sensitive - enough to respond to the touch of a butterfly," said team member Abhijit Chandra Roy, DST-Inspire Faculty in the Department of Physics and the brain behind the project. "In addition, while existing devices can only detect the bending of a finger, the new device can even measure the degree of bending at every joint of the finger."

Bengaluru-Nidaghatta stretch will be opened in July: Simha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The first package of the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway corridor from Bengaluru to Nidaghatta will be thrown open to motorists by July, Member of Parliament from Mysuru Pratap Simha has said.

In a video released on social media, Mr. Simha said all the major works, including the 4.5-km flyover after Rajarajeshwari Medical College and 8-km Bidadi bypass, are at an advanced stage of completion. The first toll gate will come up at Kaniminike for motorists travelling from Bengaluru to Mysuru.

The MP said that the expressway work was taken up in two packages; first is from Bengaluru to Niadaghatta for a stretch of 56 km, and Nidagatta to Mysuru of 61 km. He has also said that the commitment given to open the entire stretch by Dasara will be delivered and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the expressway. Last month Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari had said that once the expressway is opened, the travel time between the two destinations will be reduced to 75 minutes.

Yet another increase in commercial gas price hits restaurants, caterers hard

Small businesses that do not have a physical establishment suffer more

VEENA G.
BENGALURU

Saddled with the price rise of various items, hotel owners and caterers have been hit hard by another hike in commercial gas price by ₹102.5, taking the cost up per unit to ₹2,355.5.

Only last month, the Bruhat Bangalore Hotels' Association (BBHA) decided to advise hoteliers to raise the prices across the board up to 10% in the backdrop of edible oil, cooking gas, coffee powder, and fuel becoming more expensive.

After the latest price hike, the cost of a commercial LPG cylinder stands at ₹2,355.5. • FILE PHOTO

Chandrashekhar Hebbar, president, Karnataka Regional Hotels and Restaurants' Federation, said that while there had been no proposal to increase the prices of items again yet, it could be decided by the individual management depending on their need.

P.C. Rao, president, BBHA, said the GST for commercial gas stands at 18%, while it is 5% for domestic gas, and there was a need to decrease this. "For the past five months, commercial gas price has increased by ₹600. The Government is increasing the prices of petrol, milk, electricity, and gas. We cannot increase the prices of food items like that; there's a limit as to how much we can charge in restaurants. The increase in the price of commercial gas is an additional burden on us," he said.

Restaurants are in a fix. Santosh, who manages Nammoora Thindi restaurant, said, "Gas prices have been increasing every month by hundreds. We have been trying to manage these expenses, but sometimes we increase the price of some food items by ₹3 or 5." Narayana, manager of Krishna Aramane added, "We also have to keep in mind the competition when we decide to change the rates."

A hike in the rate of items could also mean losing customers. Small businesses that do not have a physical establishment suffer more as their shops do not carry a brand. Chandru earns his daily wage by selling fried snacks on the roadside at Muneshwaranagar. He buys commercial gas to run his business. "For one year now, the prices have been increasing frequently. I have been selling five *vades* for ₹5. If I increase the price to make up for it, then nobody will buy."

Catering businesses too have been hit hard ever since the pandemic began. Now, with the increase in prices of all commodities and groceries that are necessary for them, they still have not recovered from the losses. Shankar, who runs JSN & Sons Catering, usually quotes a price for all that he sells. "Currently, we sell at about ₹300 per plate. I can increase it up to ₹320, but not more than that. Gas price is not in our hand, so we try to strike a balance by compromising on profit margins by 5 to 10%."

Customers, on the other hand, especially those dependent on hotels, say if prices are increased again, they have no option but to pay.

Bodybuilder held on rape charge

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A bodybuilder has been arrested on the charge of rape in the city.

Syed Siddiqui was arrested by the K.G. Halli Police after a Mumbai-based 23-year-old girl lodged a complaint.

In the complaint, the woman alleged that she was an aspiring bodybuilder and contacted Siddiqui after seeing videos of him on social media on February 15. After he agreed to train her, she flew down to the city and stayed at his facility, where he began training her. The victim alleged that he tried to force her to take steroids to prepare for a national competition, which she refused. However, a few days later, she alleged Siddiqui gave her something to drink, after which she fell unconscious. She alleged that she was raped then.

She claimed that Siddiqui promised to marry her, but has now gone back on his promise. The police have registered a case and arrested the bodybuilder.

THE HINDU
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTIFICATON
PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL PRODUCTS AT RAILWAY STATIONS
Applications are invited from the manufacturers of Channapatna Toys, specially from "Gombegala Ooru (toy town) of Karnataka, their Associations including Government Agencies. Temporary functional stall with easy access to passengers will be made available to participants. Participants can sell toys at stations and on platforms also. The duration of the stall will be 15 days with effect from 09th May, 2022. Only one stall will be permitted at KSR Bengaluru station. If more than one application is received, the same will be allotted on draw of lots. The registration fee is Rs. 1000/- only (Non refundable).
Applications may be submitted latest by **16.00 Hrs of 06-05-2022** in the office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, South Western Railway, Bengaluru - 560023. It will be opened at **16.30 Hrs of 06-05-2022.**
Eligibility of applicants shall be as follows:
a) Holder of Artisan / Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Development Commissioner Handloom or by the requisite State / Central Government Authority.
b) Tribal artisans / weavers / craftsmen enrolled / registered with TRIFED.
c) Registered Self Help Groups.
d) Micro Enterprises registered under MSME.
e) The vendor already operating the stall at KSR Bengaluru station is not eligible to apply.
Interested persons can contact **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru Division (9731666950) or Chief Commercial Inspector, Bengaluru (9731666966).**
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
PUB/77/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru**
S.W.Railways sw_rly SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

JM FINANCIAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
(Formerly known as JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited)
Corporate Identification No.: U67190MH2007PLC174287
Regd. Office: 7th Floor Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai– 400 025.
Bangalore Office: 4th Floor, Basappa Complex, Lavelle Road, Landmark - Next to Rotary Club, Bangalore - 560 001. Authorized Officer: Ashlesh Bal, Email- Ashlesh.Bal@jmfl.com, Mobile: +91 8879268224, +91 9833351505, +91 9880405324, Phone - 080 4927 2491; 022 6154 8600, Website: www.jmfinancialarc.com
JM FINANCIAL

E- AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVEABLE ASSETS OF 1) MR. M MUNISWAMY, S/O MR. MUNIVENKATAPPA AND MR. M MUNIRATHNAM S/O MR. MUNISWAMY AND 2) M/S IND SING DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD. ('GUARANTOR AND/OR MORTGAGORS'), TO THE LOANS GRANTED TO M/S ABHYUDAYA EDUCATIONAL TRUST ('BORROWER'), UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ('SARFAESI ACT') READ WITH THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ('RULES').

WHEREAS the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India had issued demand notice dated 03.02.2012 under section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act and, inter alia, called upon **M/s Abhyudaya Educational Trust ('Borrower') and the guarantors and/or mortgagors viz. 1. Mr. Karthik Krishna; 2. Mr. Nanda Kumar; 3. Smt. Kavya Krishna; 4. Mr. M Muniswamy, S/o Mr. Munivenkatappa; 5. Mr. M Munirathnam S/o Mr. Muniswamy; 6. Mr. M Krishna; and corporate guarantee of M/s Ind Sing Developers Pvt. Ltd.** to pay the amounts due as contained in the said notice, being Rs. 23,14,27,464/- (Rupees Twenty-Three Crore Fourteen Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Four) as on 02.02.2012 and interest thereon along with other costs & incidental charges within 60 days of receipt of the said notice.

AND WHEREAS the Borrower/other obligors having neglected and failed to comply with the said demand under the aforesaid notice, State Bank of India took possession of the properties, more particularly described hereunder, on 01.02.2014 under the provisions of SARFAESI ACT.

AND WHEREAS subsequently State Bank of India has assigned the financial assets viz debt due from the Borrower and other obligors along with the underlying securities in favour of JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (formerly JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd.) (hereinafter '**JMFARC**') acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFARC – SBI March 2014 I – Trust, vide Assignment Agreement dated 26.03.2014.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act, read with the Rules, the undersigned has decided to sell, by way of e-auction, the properties as mentioned herein below on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"**. The amount due and repayable by the Borrower and obligors is **Rs.123,17,72,529/- (Rupees One Hundred and Twenty Three Crore Seventeen Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Nine only) as on 30.04.2022** together with interest, costs and other moneys payable thereon from the date of notice till repayment thereof.

Date and time of e-auction	June 01, 2022 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM with auto- extension of five minutes each in the event of bids placed in the last five minutes.

Detailed description of the property, its Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit shall be as follows:

Lot No	Description of property	Reserve Price (Amount in Rs. Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. Lakhs) (10% of Reserve Price)
1	All that part and parcel of 2 Bed Room residential apartment bearing no. F-004 measuring 1185 sq. ft. of super built up area in the ground floor of the building known as 'Spring Fields' built on land allocated to Phase-II. Orchid Block and club house along with 371 sq. ft. and 28 sq. ft. of undivided share, right, title and interest in Phase-II Orchid and clubhouse bearing Khatha nos. 536/19-20 and 656/19-20 in Sy. no. 19 and 20 measuring 91628 sq. ft. and 28390 sq. ft. respectively with one car parking space in the basement situated at Ambalipura, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk belonging to M/s Ind Sing Developers Pvt. Ltd. **Boundaries for item No. 1: Phase II orchid Block, East** -Private Property, **West** - Private Property, **North** - Spring fields, **South** - Private Property. **Boundaries for item No. 2: Club House, East** - Partly remaining land No. 19 belonging to Dreamy Apparels Pvt. Ltd and partly belonging to ALT College, **West** - Remaining portion of the project springfields, **North** - Phase I of Project Springfields described in item No. 1 above, **South** - Remaining portion of the project Springfields	50.00	5.00
2	All that part and parcel of 2 Bed Room residential apartment bearing no. F-104 measuring 1185 sq. ft. of super built up area in the First floor of the building known as 'Spring Fields' built on land allocated to Phase-II. Orchid Block and club house along with 371 sq. ft. and 28 sq. ft. of undivided share, right, title and interest in Phase-II Orchid and clubhouse bearing Khatha nos. 536/19-20 and 656/19-20 in Sy. no. 19 and 20 measuring 91628 sq. ft. and 28390 sq. ft. respectively with one car parking space in the basement situated at Ambalipura, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk belonging to Mr. M Muniswamy and Mr. M Munirathnam, **Boundaries for item No. 1: Phase II orchid Block, East** - Private Property **West** - Private Property, **North** - Spring fields, **South** - Private Property. **Boundaries for item No. 2: Club House, East** - Partly remaining land No. 19 belonging to Dreamy Apparels Pvt. Ltd and partly belonging to ALT College, **West** - Remaining portion of the project springfields, **North** - Phase I of Project Springfields described in item No. 1 above **South** - Remaining portion of the project Springfields	50.00	5.00

Encumbrances: To the best of knowledge of JMFARC an amount of Rs. 12.15 lakhs (approx.) and Rs. 11.80 lakhs (approx.) is outstanding towards the society dues of item no. 1 and 2 respectively.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the Secured Creditor's website i.e. **https://www.jmfinancialarc.com/assets-for-sale OR https://jmfarc.auctionliger.net.**

Sd/- Authorised Officer
JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited
Acting in capacity as the Trustee of the JMFARC- SBI March 2014 I - Trust

Date : May 05, 2022
Place: Mumbai

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841231
E-Open Tender Notice No.:- S/RWP/E/04/2022-23 dated : 29.04.2022
Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "E-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in** for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **SN. 1. Tender No.** 01211101, **Short Description of Item:** LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS BULK, **Quantity:** 3376MT, **Date of Tender Closing/ Opening:** 23.05.2022 at 14:00 Hrs.
1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in** 2. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation** with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in the all concerned newspaper. **PCMM/RWP/Bela RWP/CPRO/Advt/2022-23/10**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. BE-29-2022-23-OT-01,02,03
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

NIT No	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	Electrical arrangements for provision of 02 Nos. of Escalators at Yesvantpur PF No. 4/5, Krishnarajapuram PF No. 4, Mandya PF No. 2/3 and Bangarapet PF No. 3/4, Passenger Lifts at Dhanmapuri station (2 Nos.) and provision of Lifts in multistoreyed buildings - No. 415 & 449 in M.G. colony Bengaluru.	Rs. 24,72,913/-
2	Replacement of submersible pumps, lifting & lowering, rewinding of motors in Bengaluru division for a period of 2 years.	Rs. 33,51,276/-
3	Provision of Solar roof top Photo Voltaic power system at 7 stations under solar mission.	Rs. 77,37,497/-

Last Date for Submission of bids for OT. No. 1 is Up to 11:00 hrs of 19.05.2022 & OT. No. 2&3 is 11:00 hrs of 23.05.2022
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
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PUB/74/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23
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ACCOMMODATION IN Tirumala and Tirupati Contact– Sri vani 9384630183

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All RTCs have high departure and arrival punctuality: Report

NWKRTC has the highest ontime arrival and departure rates

NAGESH PRABHU
BENGALURU

The Government road transport corporations (RTCs) have maintained high punctuality and, on an average, 94% of all services depart on time and 95.2% of all buses arrive at the destination on time, according to the latest report (2022) of the Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA) of the State Government.

The North-Western Karnataka RTC has the highest on-time arrival and departure rates (96.5% and 96.9% respectively) against the KSRTC (95.2% on arrivals and 93.7 % on-time departures), and Kalyana Karnataka RTC (95.2% on-time departure and 93.6% arrival), the report said.

The KEA, which evaluated services of RTCs from 2014-15 to 2019-20, said the buses used for day travel showed a decreasing trend, falling by 4.4%, from 743 to 710 buses.

For night travel, there was an increase in the number of buses from 361 to 424 (17%) over the evaluation period. On an average, a KSRTC bus runs 361 km a day, followed by an NWKRTC bus (348 km), and a KKRTC bus (336 km).

Commuter choices

Only 9% of passengers of KSRTC preferred ordinary buses followed by express (24%), and semi-sleeper (45%). In NWKRTC, within intra-State services, 55.3% passengers preferred the express services followed by ordinary services (16.1%). In KKRTC, nearly 45% of the passengers used sleeper services and 19.2% used express services.

More than 60% of passengers reported satisfaction on most components. A high proportion (78%) of passengers found the grievance redressal system good.

Average passengers

When it comes to passengers, NWKRTC averaged 488 passengers per bus per day, with KSRTC at 375, and KKRTC at 338. The higher the load factor, the more profitable the operation, provided that fares are set high enough.

The average load factor for KSRTC was 70.4%, followed by KKRTC at 66.0%, and NWKRTC at 62.3%, the report said.

Davangere (77.5%) and Mysuru Urban (77.4%) divisions recorded the highest load factor. Other divisions in the top were Hubballi (75.3%), Dharwad (Rural) (75.4%), and Belagavi (74.72%), the KEA report said.

The average for fuel efficiency was lowest for KSRTC (4.84 km per litre), followed by KKRTC (5.14 kmpl), and NWKRTC (5.19 kmpl).

All transport corporations have shown a declining trend in fleet utilisation. In 2019-20, the fleet use was 91% for NWKRTC, 85% for KKRTC, and 93% for KSRTC.

The pandemic has impacted RTCs finances as well.

Man flees from bus leaving behind laptops, mobile phones

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A man fled from the bus when the conductor tried to check his hand luggage on Monday afternoon. After he fled leaving behind his luggage, the conductor found seven laptops and seven mobile phones, which he returned to the bus depot.

The man got into the KSRTC bus at Mysuru Road Satellite bus stop and bought a ticket to Ambur, Tamil Nadu. He was seated in the last seat. Conductor Manjunath B.C., who grew suspicious, asked to check the hand luggage he was carrying. But he resisted.

As per new rules, the corporation does not allow passengers to carry any banned items.

Minutes later, he got down from the bus at Madiwala and fled.

ACB registers FIR against two officers

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The ACB has registered an FIR against two KAS officials, who earlier worked at BDA.

The ACB had raided BDA in November and seized several documents. It had stumbled upon irregularities in allotment of BDA sites to slum-dwellers during the raids and sought sanction for prosecution of Jagadish who was Deputy Secretary 2 in BDA, and Roopa who was Deputy Secretary 3. Following Government sanction, ACB registered the FIR.

Staff in eight divisions of LIC stage protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A large majority of clerical and support staff of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) participated in a protest against the insurer's IPO which opened on Wednesday, said the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA).

The association here said a large majority of the staff in the State participated in the two-hour strike it called on Wednesday. Nationally, 93% of Class III and Class IV employees have participated in the protest, it said.

"All eight divisions of LIC, each having an average of 15 branches, have participated in the protest against the IPO," said the spokesperson.

President of the association V. Ramesh said, "The desperation of the Government to sell shares of the LIC to mop up some resources for meeting the fiscal deficit is evident. This desperation is all the more evident from the fact that the Government has drastically brought down the valuation of LIC from the earlier estimates of around ₹15 lakh crore to ₹6 lakh crore."

LIC employees staging a protest in front of the office on J.C. Road in Bengaluru on Wednesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This was a serious breach of trust with the millions of policy holders and citizens of this country who have supported LIC for all these years, he further said adding, this was the most blatant effort to sell the valuable assets of the nation built by the sweat and toil of the workforce.

Mr. Ramesh said AIIEA was of the opinion that IPO was the first step towards privatisation of LIC. The IPO would undermine the very foundational objectives of the insurer which was an inseparable part of the economy and national development in the last over 65 years.

"It is difficult to find any sector of the economy where the footprints of this great institution are not found," he elaborated.

Listing out apprehensions, AIIEA said the IPO of LIC would be antithetical to the interests of millions of its policy holders who are the real owners of the LIC. Post listing, the business model of LIC is bound to change privileging the interests of the 'shareholders' over that of the 'policy holders.'

Transformer maintenance campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

As the monsoon is approaching, the Department of Energy has decided to conduct a transformer maintenance campaign from May 5 to 20 to avoid the transformer-related disasters.

The decision was taken in the wake of an incident last month when a transformer caught fire in Bengaluru. The incident claimed the lives of two people. Officials would give instructions and directions on maintenance of transformers in districts, said Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar.

"There are plenty of converters older than 15 years in the State and they cause maintenance problems during the rainy season. Damage to the transformer is possible due to rain and thunderstorms/lightning", the Minister said in a press release. Overload was another major reason. Officers of all levels would be involved in the campaign. Each day the transformers would be inspected and if any defect was found, information and the cause would be sent to head office, he said.

Electric accidents

There has been a steady spate of electric accidents under Bescom's jurisdiction this year, attracting the ire of the public.

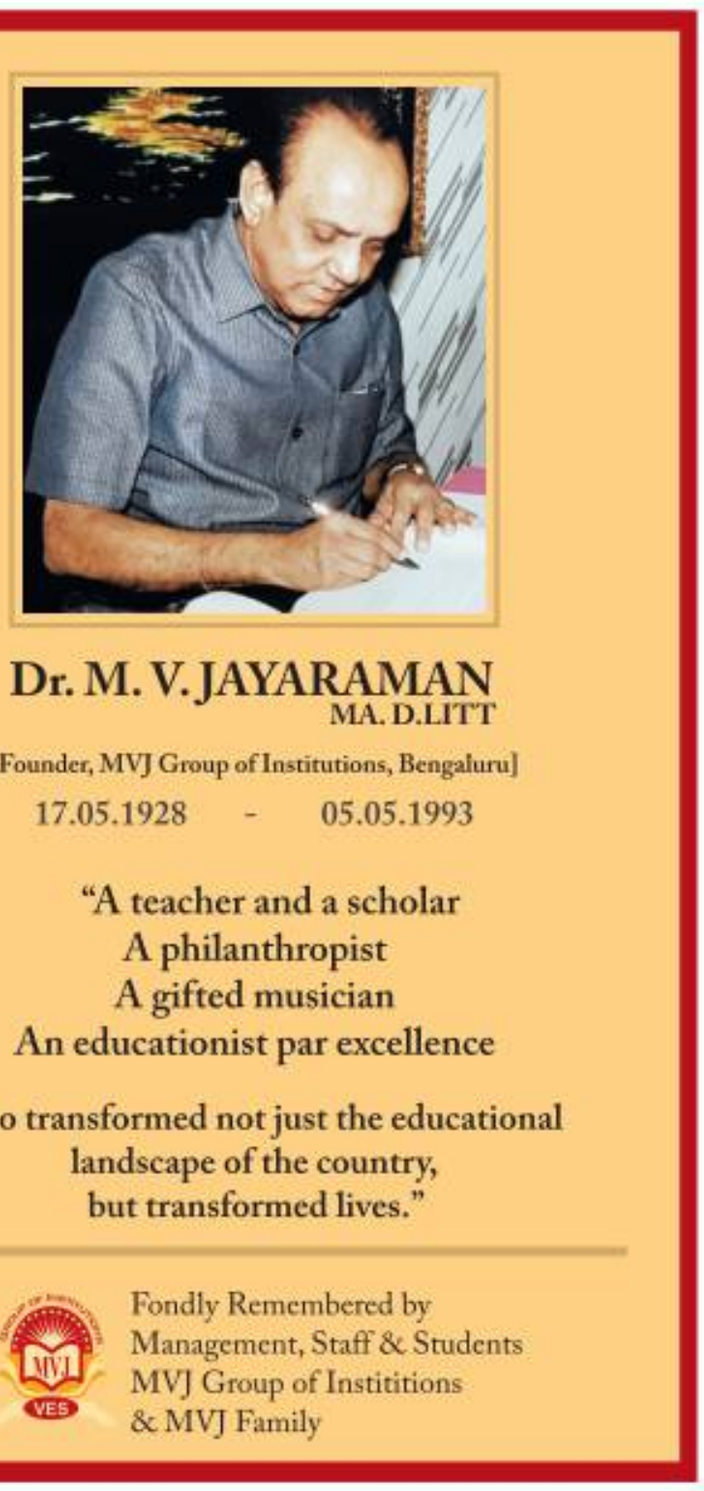
Workshop

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM) will conduct a hands-on workshop on Arduino from May 16 to 20 between 11 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

Last date for registration is May 13.

For details, contact VITM on Kasturba Road. Call 080-22040219 or visit www.vismuseum.gov.in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15. Ph.D. Physics
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17. Ph.D. Computer Science
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6. B.Sc. Psychology**
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8. M.A. Economics
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13. Ph.D. Management
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8. M.Ed. Special Education (Hearing Impairment)
9. M.Ed. Special Education (Visual Impairment)
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11. Ph.D. Special Education
12. Ph.D. Physical Education
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2. B.E. Computer Science & Engineering
3. B.E. Civil Engineering with Computer Application
4. B.E. Electronics and Communication Engineering
5. B.E. Food Processing and Preservation Technology #
6. B.E. Printing Technology #
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5. Ph.D. Electronics and Communication Engineering
6. Ph.D. Printing Technology
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05.05.2022
For further information contact
Registrar
Email: vc@avinuty.ac.in/registrar@avinuty.ac.in | Phone: 0422-2440241/2435550 | URL: http://www.avinuty.ac.in

JM FINANCIAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
(Formerly known as JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited)
Corporate Identification No.: U67190MH2007PLC174287
Regd. Office: 7th Floor Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai– 400 025,
Bangalore Office: 4th Floor, Basappa Complex, Lavelle Road, Landmark - Next to Rotary Club, Bangalore - 560 001. Authorized Officer: Ashlesh Bal, Email- Ashlesh.Bal@jmfl.com, Mobile: +91 8879268224, +91 9833351505, +91 9880405324, Phone - 080 4927 2491; 022 6154 8600, Website: www.jmfinancialarc.com

JM FINANCIAL

NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVEABLE ASSETS OF 1) MR. M MUNISWAMY, S/O MR. MUNIVENKATAPPA AND MR. M MUNIRATHNAM S/O MR. MUNISWAMY AND M/S IND SING DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD. (GUARANTORS AND/OR MOTGAGORS) TO THE LOANS GRANTED TO M/S ABHYUDAYA EDUCATIONAL TRUST ('BORROWER'), POSSESSION OF WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER UNDER SECTION 13(4) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") READ WITH THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ('RULES').

WHEREAS the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India had issued demand notice dated 03.02.2012 under section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act and had inter alia, called upon **M/s Abhyudaya Educational Trust ('Borrower') and the guarantors and/or mortgagors viz. 1. Mr. Karthik Krishna; 2. Mr. Nanda Kumar; 3. Sml. Kavya Krishna; 4. Mr. M Muniswamy, S/o Mr. Munivenkatappa; 5. Mr. M Munirathnam S/o Mr. Muniswamy; 6. Mr. M Krishna and 7. M/s Ind Sing Developers Pvt. Ltd.** to pay the amounts due as contained in the said notice, being Rs. 23,14,27,464/- (Rupees Twenty-Three Crore Fourteen Lakhs Twenty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty-Four) as on 02.02.2012 and interest thereon along with other costs & incidental charges within 60 days of receipt of the said notice.

AND WHEREAS the Borrower/other obligors having neglected and failed to comply with the said demand under the aforesaid notice, State Bank of India took possession of the property, more particularly described hereunder, on 01.02.2014 under the provisions of SARFAESI Act.

AND WHEREAS subsequently State Bank of India has assigned the financial assets viz. debt due from the Borrower along with the underlying securities in favour of JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (formerly JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd.) (hereinafter **'JMFARC'**) acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFARC – SBI March 2014 I – Trust, vide Assignment Agreement dated 26.03.2014.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act, read with the relevant Rules, the undersigned has decided to sell, by way of e-auction, the properties as mentioned herein below on **"AS IS WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" BASIS.** The said properties are mortgaged by the mortgagors /guarantors, viz **1) Mr. M Muniswamy, S/o Mr. Munivenkatappa; and Mr. M Munirathnam S/o Mr. Muniswamy; 2) M/s Ind Sing Developers Pvt. Ltd.** as security for due repayment of the advances granted to M/s Abhudaya Educational Trust which amount to **Rs. 123,17,72,529/- (Rupees One Hundred and Twenty Three Crore Seventeen Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Nine only) as on 30.04.2022** together with interest, costs and other moneys payable thereon from the date of notice till repayment thereof.

Notice is hereby given to you all in terms of Rule 6(2) read with Rule 8(6), 9(1) along with other applicable Rules, that the properties, as described in table hereunder shall be sold through inviting bids in e-auction held by the Authorized Officer of JMFARC at reserve price as mentioned in the below table:

Date and time of e-auction	**June 01, 2022 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM with auto- extension of five minutes each in the event of any bids is placed in the last five minutes.**

Your attention is also invited to provision of Section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act wherein you may redeem the above properties by paying the entire outstanding dues to JMFARC together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred.
Detailed description of the property, its Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit shall be as mentioned in the table below:
Please find below the necessary details for the public auction:

Lot No	Description of property	Reserve Price (Amount in Rs. Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. Lakhs) (10% of Reserve Price)
1	All that part and parcel of 2 Bed Room residential apartment bearing no. F-004 measuring 1185 sq. ft. of super built up area in the ground floor of the building known as 'Spring Fields' built on land allocated to Phase-II. Orchid Block and club house along with 371 sq. ft. and 28 sq. ft. of undivided share, right, title and interest in Phase-II Orchid and clubhouse bearing Khatha nos. 536/19-20 and 656/19-20 in Sy. no. 19 and 20 measuring 91628 sq. ft. and 28390 sq. ft. respectively with one car parking space in the basement situated at Ambalipura, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk belonging to M/s Ind Sing Developers Pvt. Ltd. **Boundaries for item No. 1: Phase II orchid Block, East** -Private Property, **West** - Private Property, **North** - Spring fields, **South** - Private Property. **Boundaries for item No. 2: Club House, East** - Partly remaining land No. 19 belonging to Dreamy Apparels Pvt. Ltd and partly belonging to ALT College, **West** - Remaining portion of the project springfields, **North** - Phase I of Project Springfields described in item No. 1 above, **South** - Remaining portion of the project Springfields	50.00	5.00
2	All that part and parcel of 2 Bed Room residential apartment bearing no. F-104 measuring 1185 sq. ft. of super built up area in the First floor of the building known as 'Spring Fields' built on land allocated to Phase-II. Orchid Block and club house along with 371 sq. ft. and 28 sq. ft. of undivided share, right, title and interest in Phase-II Orchid and clubhouse bearing Khatha nos. 536/19-20 and 656/19-20 in Sy. no. 19 and 20 measuring 91628 sq. ft. and 28390 sq. ft. respectively with one car parking space in the basement situated at Ambalipura, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk belonging to Mr. M Muniswamy and Mr. M Munirathnam. **Boundaries for item No. 1: Phase II orchid Block, East** - Private Property **West** - Private Property, **North** - Spring fields, **South** - Private Property. **Boundaries for item No. 2: Club House, East** - Partly remaining land No. 19 belonging to Dreamy Apparels Pvt. Ltd and partly belonging to ALT College, **West** - Remaining portion of the project springfields, **North** - Phase I of Project Springfields described in item No. 1 above **South** - Remaining portion of the project Springfields	50.00	5.00

Encumbrances: To the best of knowledge of JMFARC an amount of Rs. 12.15 lakhs (approx.) and Rs. 11.80 lakhs (approx.) is outstanding towards the society dues of item no. 1 and 2 respectively.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in JMFARC's website, i.e., **https://www.jmfinancialarc.com/assets-for-sale and https://jmfarc.auctionTiger.net**

Sd/- Authorised Officer
JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited
acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFARC- SBI March 2014 I - Trust

PSI scam: Successful candidates move tribunal against re-exam

Petitioners ask why no effort is being made to separate non-tainted from tainted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The row over the process of selection to 545 posts of Police Sub-Inspectors on Monday reached the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal, with some successful candidates questioning the State Government's decision to conduct re-examination.

T. Narayanaswamy, (judicial member) of the tribunal, has ordered notice to the State Government and the Director-General of Police on a petition, filed by Pavithra L.N. and 27 other candidates, who had succeeded in the selection process commenced in January, 2022.

A file photo of candidates protesting against the Government's decision to annul the results of the PSI recruitment exam.

Notification questioned

They questioned the correctness of the April 29, 2022, notification of the Government to cancel the earlier exam and hold a fresh exam to select candidates to these posts.

They contended that the selection process, which was in the final stage, could not have been stalled without making any effort to segregate the tainted and the non-tainted candidates before cancelling the exam held earlier as well as selections made based on the outcome of that exam.

Citing the apex court's judgments on irregularities during recruitment process of various posts in the Governments, the petitioners contended that it was a duty cast upon the recruiting authorities to identify tainted persons and remove only them to ensure that non-tainted candidates are not affected. The petitioner candidates also pointed out that the apex court had made it very clear that it would not be possible to avoid the entire recruitment process or to cancel the recruitment process without making a sincere attempt to segregate the tainted from the untainted, who are a class apart.

Limited to some centres

Only when it becomes impossible to segregate tainted persons the Government can cancel the entire recruitment process, the petitioners contended, while pointing out that the allegation of manipulation or tampering of OMR sheet is limited only to a few centres in Kalaburagi and Bengaluru of the total 93 examination centre.

Further hearing on the petition has been adjourned till May 18.

Dy.SP with long stint in recruitment cell transferred

Questions raised on why probe is not being expanded

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

After the transfer of Amrit Paul who headed the Police Recruitment Cell, the State police transferred out Dy.SP P. Shanta Kumar from the cell on Tuesday. Both officers have been transferred to the Internal Security Division (ISD).

Mr. Shanta Kumar has had a long tenure at the recruitment cell over the past 12 years with brief interludes when he was transferred out. However, he used to return to the cell, where he joined as inspector and was promoted as a Dy.SP, sources said. The Police Department has been abuzz as to why the CID probe had not yet reached the top officials of the Police Recruitment Cell and was only focusing on individual candidates and exam centres. "There cannot be such widespread malpractices in the exams and selection of candidates without the involvement of those who conducted the exams," a senior police official said. Congress leader Priyank Kharge has alleged that the State Government was focusing on the bottom of the pyramid of the scam and trying to divert attention away from the kingpins.

The CID arrested another successful candidate Yeshwanth Gowda from Kalaburagi, where he was serving at Police Training College, Naganahalli. Yeshwanth Gowda was a sub-inspector directly recruited to KSISF and had written the exam for civil PSI and was selected. He had, on April 22, submitted his documents to the CID and officials found some discrepancies in his documents. Investigations indicated he also indulged in malpractices, CID sources said.

Third notice served

Meanwhile, the CID served notice for the third time to Mr. Kharge on Wednesday to join the probe and submit the audio clip and other evidence he had regarding the scam within the next two days. Mr. Kharge, who has earlier refused to appear before the CID, challenged the Government to arrest him for ignoring the notices served by the CID on him. "It is an attempt to silence the Opposition," he alleged.

In the two earlier notices, to which he has replied, the CID had not asked for any specific document. "But in this notice I have been served on Wednesday, they have asked for the audio clip and its authenticity. But he argued that the transcript of the audio clip was already in the public domain and why the CID was asking him to authenticate it. Moreover, BJP leaders Minister Prabhu Chavan and S.V. Sankanur had spoken before me, but have not been served notices," he said.

Police leaked details on scam: HDK

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Adding a twist to the ongoing controversy over the alleged scam in recruitment of 545 police sub-inspectors (civil), former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday alleged that the Police Department had leaked the details of the scam to avenge the insult meted out to Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant by a BJP leader.

Speaking to reporters at Chennapatna, he said: "The BJP spokesperson had called the Police Commissioner a liar following a murder in Bengaluru in a road rage case. The BJP had tried to give the murder a communal twist by stating that it had taken place since the deceased youth could not speak Urdu." He said: "The BJP leaders had insulted Mr. Pant, an upright officer. To avenge this, police officials leaked details of the scam. The BJP leader who insulted Mr. Pant had links with the kingpin."

Congress demands suspension of top police officers for alleged role in scam

Govt. should lodge an FIR: Siddaramaiah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Wednesday demanded lodging an FIR and suspension of top police officers Amrit Paul and Shanta Kumar for their alleged role in the PSI recruitment scam in the State.

Siddaramaiah

The Congress leader said soon after the scam broke out, the Government transferred ADGP in-charge of recruitment Amrit Paul to Internal Security division. DYSP Shanta Kumar too has been transferred. "This shows that these officers may have been involved. The Government should have lodged an FIR and suspended them," he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah pointed out that 1,29,000 candidates had applied for PSI jobs while 57,000 were called to write the examination. A total of 545 candidates were provisionally selected. The Government has acknowledged the scam and ordered re-examination.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and State BJP in-charge Arun Singh had lauded the achievements of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and clearly showed that the Centre approved the 40% commission in the Mr. Bommai-led Government. Even contractors and seers have talked about 40% commission in the Government. "The BJP Central Government has extended all its support to corruption in the State," the former Chief Minister said.

The scam was not limited to just the Home Department. "More scams are coming to light every day," he said. Reports have emerged about the scam in the appointments of Assistant Professors by the Higher Education Department.

"What is the role of Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan in this?" Mr. Siddaramaiah said. The fifth rank candidate Darshan Gowda and 10th rank candidate Nagesh Gowda were relatives of Mr. Narayan. They have been let off after questioning, even though others have been arrested. "This is a ₹300-crore scam and we have no faith in the CID investigation. We demand a probe monitored by a sitting High Court judge," he demanded.

Meanwhile, continuing his tirade against Mr. Narayan without explicitly naming him, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday alleged that the Minister's relatives had helped candidates of Magadi taluk secure top ranks in the PSI selection list by taking bribes. Speaking to reporters on the outskirts of the city, Mr. Shivakumar said selected candidates sold their properties to pay bribes. About 17 candidates have been arrested, he said, and sought to know why the police had not arrested top rank holders from Magadi taluk.

Asked whether BJP leaders had furnished him information about the scam, Mr. Shivakumar said: "I will not disclose the source of the information. It is possible that those who are very close to him (Mr. Narayan) may have given the information."

Mr. Narayan said Mr. Shivakumar, who spent several days in jail, has been levelling baseless charges without evidence. Mr. Narayan said that he would go for legal action against Congress leaders for levelling allegations without proof.

Adding to the political cloud around the issue, JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy said there was a "conspiracy" against Mr. Narayan from within the BJP. "The Congress has been making allegations against the Minister. But do they have any evidence against him?" he asked. "Some of Mr. Narayan's colleagues have been trying to bring him down. These allegations were timed in such a way that when Mr. Shah was in the city, television and media were full of reports against the Minister. The BJP is setting fire to its own house in the State," he said.

Up in arms

The Aam Aadmi Party staged a protest against unemployment and corruption by laying siege to Udyoga Soudha, the head office of Karnataka Public Service Commission, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

CM sets deadline for completion of projects announced in State Budget

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah's instructions to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to focus on execution of development works in the State ahead of next year's Assembly elections, Mr. Bommai on Wednesday set deadlines for completing several programmes and projects announced in the State Budget for 2022-23.

In the first meeting with officials of the Medical Education Department, Mr. Bommai directed the officials to take necessary steps for construction of a branch of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research in Hubballi at a cost of ₹250 crore.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai

He also instructed officials to complete the process of land acquisition for construction of a medical college building in Ramanagaram by June end.

The Chief Minister, who participated in the Khelo India valedictory function on Tuesday, told officials to make arrangements for sporting events at the gram panchayat level on the lines of rural temple festivals. Indigenous sports such as kabaddi, kho-kho, bullock cart race, and other rural sports should be encouraged, he said.

Mr. Bommai reviewed the progress of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and told officials to take initiative for construction of 1,000 buildings for anganwadi centres under the MGNREGA. The Women and Child Development Department and RDPR would provide funds for construction of buildings in aspirational taluks of the State, he said.

Officials have been told to complete development works in 750 gram panchayats identified under the Amrith scheme by June end. Each GP would be given ₹25 lakh for taking up development projects, including installation of streetlights, supply of drinking water to each household, 100% segregation and disposal of solid waste, use of solar power, and schools with digital libraries. Officials have been told to complete works under the Jal Jeevan Mission (phase-I) in the next two months.

2 IPS officers transferred

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Government on Wednesday transferred two IPS officers and gave posting to an IPS Officer who was awaiting posting.

According to a notification issued here on Wednesday, P. Ravindranath has been transferred with immediate effect and posted as Director-General of Police, Training, Bengaluru. Harishekaran P. has been transferred and posted as Additional Director-General of Police and Additional Director-General, Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services. Arun Chakravarthy has been appointed as Additional Director-General of Police, Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement, Bengaluru.

HC orders inquiry into medical certificate given by doctor favouring convict

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Indian Medical Council to conduct an inquiry into a medical certificate issued by the managing director of a private hospital stating that presence of a convict is required in the hospital to monitor his mother, who has been admitted there for treatment.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by Vasudeva alias Vasu, convict lodged in Bengaluru central prison, seeking release on parole for 15 days based on the medical certificate.

Dr. Naveen T.K., MD of Life Care Hospital, had stated in the medical certificate that petitioner's mother "is a patient with B/L knee Rheumatoid Osteoarthritis with osteoporosis... She is bedridden with comorbid disabilities. She needs her son to come for monitory check in view of critical illness. Hence, kindly consider 2/3 weeks for her son to attend."

Taking note of contents of the certificate, the court said the only reason why parole is sought is on the basis of this medical certificate, and "it is not understood on what basis such a certificate has been issued."

Pointing out that the doctor goes on to say that the petitioner is required for monitoring his mother and that osteoarthritis is a critical illness, the court refused to accept the certificate while referring it to IMC to inquire how such a certificate was issued by the doctor.

Greater Chennai Corporation
STORM WATER DRAIN DEPARTMENT

S.W.D.C. No 63/2070/4 - 12 / 2022
E-Tenders are invited for the following work as per details furnished below.

Name of the work	Package Value of work (with GST)	E.M.D. Rs.	Eligible Class
Construction of Integrated Storm Water Drain Works in M1 & M2 components in Kovalam Basin in expanded area of Greater Chennai Corporation covering various streets of Zone - 12, 14 & 15 under KFW Fund, Package - 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12	Rs. 3652.49 Lakhs to Rs. 6326.34 Lakhs	1% of work value	Class-I

1) Tender last date and time of submission 10.05.2022 upto 3.00 pm.
2) Bid document will be available in website https://tntenders.gov.in
3) Tender open date and time 10.05.2022 at 3.30 pm.
4) Pre Bid meeting date and Time 24.05.2022 at 3.00 pm
5) FIN-2 is a complete set of bills of quantities available on the online portal and FIN-1 will be uploaded with FIN-2 Please make sure not to submit any financial bid data with the technical proposal

Superintending Engineer / SWDD

DIPR/2154/Tender/2022

(Govt of Karnataka)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.W.D DIVISION SEDAM

No. EE/PWD/Dvn/Sed/TS- 1/2022-23/300 Date : 04-05-2022.

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Details of Works : 1. Total no of work 06 in Sedam taluka Indent No's are as follows: 151908, 151915, 151677, 151678, 151906 & 151907, 2. Total no of work 03 in Chincholi taluka Indent No's are as follows: Under 152051, 156076 & 152086. 2) Head of Account : 5054- SH Improvements & 5054- MDR Improvements For the year 2021-22, 3) Amount Put to Tender : Lowest Estimate Cost : **Rs. 250.00 Lakhs, Highest Estimate Cost : Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs,** 4) Legibility of Contractor: Class-1 contractor & Above, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting Date : **04-06-2022 - 11:30:00 Hrs,** 6) Last date & time for Tender Queries & receipt of tenders : **07-06-2022 - 17:30:00 Hrs,** 7) Tender Form Fee & EMD Amount: Tender processing fee & EMD As per e-portal, 8) Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **09-06-2022 - 16:00:00 Hrs** 9) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **10-06-2022 - 16:30:00 Hrs,** 10) Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid : **13-06-2022 - 16:30:00 Hrs,** 11) Communication Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam, 12) Internet Address: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**, 13) If any changes for Cancelation : Any Changes and cancelations are done in **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DiP/Kalaburagi/106/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D Division Sedam

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Mr. V. DAMODARAN (53)
Assistant Engineer - PrePress,
THE HINDU, Chennai.
Passed away on 04-05-2022.
Address:
No. 12, Krishnaswamy Street,
Palavanthangal, Chennai-600114.
Ph: 9940294423

T.SUNDAR RAM (72), Retired Senior Advertisement Officer, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 03-05-2022. Address: 1 FOA, Jain Sudarshana Flats, 174, Madambakkam Main Road, Rajakilpakkam, Chennai - 600073. Contact: 8056116830

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DEATH

Respectful Homage

V.PICHAI
(September 12, 1947 - May 03, 2022)
Deputy Managing Director & Secretary
Seshasayee Paper

Deeply mourned by Directors & Employees of

SESHASAYEE PAPER AND BOARDS LIMITED
PONNI SUGARS (ERODE) LIMITED
HIGH ENERGY BATTERIES (INDIA) LIMITED
SPB PROJECTS AND CONSULTANCY LIMITED
ESVIN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

IN BRIEF

Unusual legal route to challenge George's bail

KOCHI

The Kerala government will take the unusual legal route of simultaneously moving court to cancel the bail granted to former legislator P.C. George in the communally inflammatory speech case and seeking to quash the bail order issued by a magistrate in the case.

Nadda to participate in Telangana BJP's yatra

HYDERABAD

The second phase of Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's Praja Sangrama Yatra in Mahabubnagar will receive nationwide attention with the party's national president J.P. Nadda all set to participate in it on Thursday.

Kerala seeks to contain shigella spread

Many took ill after taking shawarma in Kasaragod

STAFF REPORTER
KASARAGOD

The Health department has decided to conduct further tests in the case of shigella sonnie bacteria which are found to have caused food poisoning in people who had shawarma and water from an eatery at Cheruvathur in Kerala's Kasaragod district recently.

A.T. Manoj, Deputy District Medical Officer, said here on Wednesday that there was nothing to panic about, but "considering an outbreak of the bacteria, with many people hospitalised with the symptoms after consuming food and water from the eatery, hospitals have been asked to closely monitor cases that have symptoms of vomiting, fever and diarrhoea," he said.

A file photo showing the shigella bacteria.

Since the test result found the presence of shigella sonnie bacteria, the water source used for the eatery will be inspected further. In addition, the Health department has decided to inspect water sources in the surrounding areas, he added.

The police have so far arrested three persons in connection with the food poisoning incident.

HC registers suo motu case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Wednesday registered a suo motu case in connection with the recent food poisoning incidents in Kasaragod, which claimed the life of a student and led to the hospitalisation of many others.

The Bench, comprising Justice Devan Ramachandran and Justice P.G. Ajithkumar, said the court was appalled at the unfortunate turn of events and was pondering how it could happen when strict enforcement and analytical regimes were in place under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The court posted the case for further hearing on May 6.

Preventive steps

Kasaragod District Medical Officer A.V. Ramdas said preventive measures had been intensified in the district after it was confirmed on Tuesday that the cause of the recent food poisoning episode in Cheruvathur was shigella bacteria. A 16-year-old schoolgirl had died and 57 people have been hospitalised following food poisoning. Steps are being taken to carry out diarrhoea surveys and chlorinate drinking water sources and to conduct hygiene checks at food preparation and distribution centres as part of the preventive measures.

Diarrhoea surveys are being conducted in the Neeleswaram municipal limits from where food poisoning has been reported and in the panchayats of Cheruvathur, Kayyur Cheemeni, Padanna, Pilicode and Thrikkarippur.

Food safety reports

The Food Safety department in the district is yet to receive the test reports of the food and water samples sent to the Kozhikode Regional Analytical Laboratory. However, sources here confirmed that the presence of E.coli and coliform bacteria were found in the food samples. Testing to check the presence of shigella and salmonella bacteria was under way.

In Kannur Corporation, health officials conducted inspections at various hotels and restaurants and seized stale food. The authorities have issued notice to those eateries.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Sikkim, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, south interior Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	20	29.6	22.1	Kozhikode	–	35.8	27.4
Ahmedabad	–	42.4	25.7	Kurnool	–	41.2	30.1
Allahabad	–	39.3	26.8	Lucknow	–	38.2	26.4
Bengaluru	9	34.2	20.9	Madurai	–	38.7	28.0
Bhopal	–	41.7	25.0	Mangaluru	31	33.3	23.5
Bhubaneswar	18	38.2	21.4	Mumbai	–	34.4	25.5
Chandigarh	–	34.6	26.3	Mysuru	18	33.2	20.0
Chennai	–	36.8	28.7	New Delhi	–	39.1	28.8
Coimbatore	4	35.5	23.2	Patna	–	34.2	24.1
Dehradun	–	33.4	21.0	Port Blair	–	31.0	26.5
Gangtok	0.7	18.7	14.3	Puducherry	–	34.6	28.3
Goa	–	35.0	26.6	Pune	–	39.3	23.0
Guwahati	–	31.4	21.5	Raipur	–	42.2	26.0
Hubballi	–	37.0	23.0	Ranchi	0.6	35.7	20.1
Hyderabad	63	34.4	18.9	Shillong	0.3	21.5	12.8
Imphal	40	26.4	17.6	Shimla	50	20.9	12.6
Jaipur	–	40.4	29.0	Srinagar	8	16.8	11.8
Kochi	–	32.2	27.8	Thiruvananthapuram	–	34.1	27.0
Kohima	–	–	–	Tiruchi	–	39.9	27.5
Kolkata	6	33.1	23.4	Vijayawada	–	35.6	27.8
				Visakhapatnam	–	34.0	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	12	–	279	163	
Bengaluru	11	32	14	79	93	
Chennai	15	5	53	46	57	
Delhi	13	46	30	309	305	
Hyderabad	5	23	46	94	95	
Kolkata	7	99	46	30	40	
Lucknow	8	70	44	204	136	
Mumbai	7	1	18	–	262	
Pune	8	35	52	141	93	
Visakhapatnam	18	46	32	54	88	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dharuhera, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 439 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Ranatunga visits trust in A.P.; seeks medicine supply to Sri Lanka

He cites severe shortage of children's drugs in his country

STAFF REPORTER
PUTTAPARTHI

Former Sri Lankan cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga visited the Sri Sathya Sai Baba's ashram Prashanthi Nilayam at Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh to seek the help of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust in getting children's medicines for his country.

Seeking aid: Former Sri Lankan cricketer Arjuna Ranatunga at the Prashanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi on Wednesday.

Mr. Ranatunga, who was former Sri Lankan Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation, met R.J. Rathnakar, the managing trustee of the trust, on Wednesday and discussed the possibility of supply of children's medicines to his country as there was a severe shortage due to the prevailing financial crisis in Sri Lanka.

Briefing the media at Puttaparthi after discussions with Mr. Ratnakar, the former cricketer said that he had come to India on a personal visit, but as an ardent devotee of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, decided to seek the help of the trust. The quantum of help could be ₹4 crore worth of medicines.

Honour for scientist

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Conservation biologist Kamal Bawa has been elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Kamal Bawa is president of the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) as well as an elected fellow of the Royal Society (London) and the American Philosophical Society.

"The election is a reaffirmation of our important work on the ecology, conservation, and management of tropical forests that are declining all over the world but are critical to humanity's well-being," said Dr. Bawa.

A few years ago, Dr. Bawa brought together scientists from India's leading institutions to develop the National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Wellbeing under the banner of the Biodiversity Collaborative. The effort was supported by the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, and is currently funded by the Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies.

Kamal Bawa

Plea dismissed

MARRI RAMU
HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday dismissed a writ petition challenging the decision of Osmania University Registrar rejecting application for permitting a programme of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on the university campus on Saturday. Congress leader K. Manavatha Roy and others had moved a House Motion on the matter.

Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy, who heard the petition dismissed it. Mr. Roy and members of the National Students Union of India moved the House Motion after the judge heard their earlier petition and directed them to question the Registrar's rejection of their application seeking permission for the meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my Client Intends to purchase the properties mentioned in the Schedule ("Schedule Properties") from its owner/s. Public is notified that any person having any right, title or claim or interest over the Schedule Properties or any objection/s of any manner whatsoever is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication to this notice. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that the Owners have clear and marketable title to the Schedule Properties and that no other person has any claim whatsoever, over the Schedule Properties or claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

Sl. No.	Village	Sy. No.	Extent A	Extent G	Land Owners	Boundaries East	West	North	South
1	Manchenahalli, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore	43/1	1	5	Varalaksh-mamma	Land in Sy.No. 43/3 and 43/2	Road	Remaining portion of Sy.No. 43/1 & Sy.No.43/2	Land in Sy.No. 43/4 and 43/5
2		43/2	0	37	Ankineedu Maganti	Tank	Land in Sy.No. 43/1	Private Property	Land in Sy.No. 43/1 and 43/3
3		43/3	0	4.5	Varalaksh-mamma	Remaining portion of Sy.No. 43/3	Land in Sy.No. 43/1	Land in Sy.No. 43/2	Land in Sy.No. 43/5
4		43/5, 43/6B and 43/7	0	31	Ankineedu Maganti	Land in Sy.No. 43/6A & 46	Land in Sy.No. 43/4	Land in Sy.No. 43/1 & Sy.No.43/3	Road
5				14					
6				11					
			3	22.5					

Shilpa Shree S.P., Advocate,
122, SVS Patels Callisto
Talacauvery Layout, Byatarayanapura
Bangalore - 560 092. Tel. : 7619248041

Bangalore
Date: 04.05.2022

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಚಿಗಟೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08192-259050, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08192-233743
ಸಂ: ಚಜಿಆ/ಜ.ಬಿ.ಎಲ್(3)/03/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.04.2022

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಚಿಗಟೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಜಾಸ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ "ಡಿ" ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ನೌಕರರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಆರ್ಹ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯವರಿಂದ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆಯಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999-2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.04.2022. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. 4 ಕೋಟಿ 72 ಲಕ್ಷದ 16 ಸಾವಿರದ 927 ಮಾತ್ರ. (3) ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು E-Procurement Portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 29.04.2022 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ 28.05.2022 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4:30. (4) ಅಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು E-Procurement Portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.05.2022 (5) ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.05.2022 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (6) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30.05.2022 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (7) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ : ನಂತರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು (8) ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : ನಂತರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು (9) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಪೆಷ್ಕ : ರೂ.94,43,385/- (10) E-Procurement Portal Processing Fees : E-Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ (11) ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಲಕರಣೆಗಳ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ : ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ಚಿಗಟೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192-259050, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 08192-233743.

ದಾಪಾಇ/ಪಬಸಂಗೆರೆ/88/ಐಂಸಿಒ/2022-23

ಸಹಿ/- ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು,
ಚಿಗಟೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

KARNATAK UNIVERSITY
HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

04-05-2022

PRESS NOTE

As per the Karnataka Govt. Order No. APJ 41 FAP 2017/25-2-2017 growing of *Eucalyptus* has been banned. For the developmental activity we are planning to remove 1514-*Eucalyptus*, 132-*Acacia* and 1- *Casurina* tree plantation at Shri. S.S.Basavanal Library, Karnatak University, Dharwad. In pursuance of Karnataka Tree preservation Act, 1976 Section 8 (3) (vii), the said information has been brought to the Public Notice. In case,any person aggrieved with the said decision can submit the representation in writing to **The Regsitrar,Karnatak University, Dharwad-580003** during office hours within 7- working days after publication date

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client intend to purchase following lands from **(1) Sri. R.Ramesh Babu S/o Late Sri.Ramachandraiah Shetty,** Aged about 61 years, **(2) Smt. A.R. KANTHA LAKSHMI** W/o Sri.Ramesh Babu, Aged about 60 years, **(3) Sri. R.Ram Mohan** S/o Sri.Ramesh Babu , Aged about 32 years, All above 1 to 3 are R/at No.422, Radhna Mahal', R.P.Singh Road, Third Cross, Opposite to Multispecility Hospital, Old Extension, Krishnarajapura, Bangalore 36. **(4) Sri. T.L.Manjunath S/o Lakshmayya,** Aged about 46 years, R/at Tavarekere Village & Post , Nandagudi Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural Dist - 562 122.

Village Name	Name	SY No.	Extent	East by:	West by :	North by :	South by :
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	2/3	2 Acre 07 Guntas	Land in Sy No.1/2	Land in Sy No.5 & 6/2	Land in Sy No.2/2	Land in Sy No.2/4
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	3/2	1 Acre 16 Guntas	Tavarekere Border	Land in Sy No.3/3	Land in Sy No.2/1&	Tavarekere Border
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	6/4	23.08 Guntas	Land in Sy No.2/1 & 2/2	Land in Sy No.26/2	Land in Sy No.6/3	Land in Sy No.6/2
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	8	17 Guntas	Lake	Land in Sy No.9	Land in Sy No.9	Land in Sy No.6/1
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	12/3	11 Guntas	Land in Sy No.12/6	Land in Sy No.12/1	Land in Sy No.11/3	Land in Sy No.12/8
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	12/8	09 Guntas	Land in Sy No.12/4	Land in Sy No.12/3	Land in Sy No.10/3	Land in Sy No.12/8
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	12/9	18.08 Guntas	Land in Sy No.09	Land in Sy No.12/5	Land in Sy No.10/3	Land in Sy No.12/7
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	13/6	30 Guntas	Land in Sy No.13/4	Land in Sy No.13/2	Land in Sy No.13/5	Land in Sy No.13/3
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	19	4 Acre 22 Guntas	Kaluve	Land in Sy No.20 & Bheemapura Border	Land in Sy No.18	Kaluve
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	24/1	1 Acre 39 Guntas	Land in Sy No.25/2	Land in Sy No.24/2	Land in Sy No.13/1&17	Land in Sy No.24/3
Gorawahalli	R.Ramesh Babu	24/3	39.08 Guntas	Land in Sy No.25/1	Land in Sy No.24/2	Land in Sy No.24/1	Land in Sy No.33/1
Tavarekere	R.Ramesh Babu	13/4	33.08 Guntas	Kaluve	Land in Sy No.18	Land in Sy No.13/3	Land in Sy No.13/5
Tavarekere	R.Ramesh Babu	23/1	36.08 Guntas	Land in Sy No.25	Land in Sy No.23/2	Beeeva-ligamma Property	T.N. Beeeva-ranjappa Property
Tavarekere	R.Ramesh Babu	25/1	12 Guntas	Land in Sy No.26/2	Land in Sy No.24	Land in Sy No.26/5 & 26/4	Land in Sy No.25/2
Tavarekere	R.Ramesh Babu	25/2	1 Acre 12 Guntas	Land in Sy No.26/2	Land in Sy No.23/1	Land in Sy No.25/1	Land in Sy No.25/5
Tavarekere	R.Ramesh Babu	26/5	1 Acre 03.12 Guntas	Land in Sy No.26/4	Gorawahally Border	Gorawahally Border	Land in Sy No.25/1
Tavarekere	R.Ramesh Babu	23/3	1 Acre 04 Guntas	Land in Sy No.23/7	Land in Sy No.20/4	Land in Sy No.23/2	Land in Sy.No.23/4 & 23/5
Tavarekere	R.Ramesh Babu	32/4	1 Acre 05 Guntas	Land in Sy No.32/2 & 32/7	Land in Sy No.32/1	Land in Sy No. 29	Land in Sy No.33
Tavarekere	R.Ramesh Babu	29	1 Acre 20 Guntas	Private Property	Private Property	Private Property	Private Property
Tavarekere	A.R. Kantha Lakshmi	194/2	1 Acre 10 Guntas	Land in Sy No.194/1	Yalachahalli Border	Land in Sy No.196	Land in Sy No.195
Tavarekere	A.R. Kantha Lakshmi	13/2	1 Acre 14.08 Guntas	Kaluve	Road	Land in Sy No.13/5	Land in Sy No.12 & 11
Gorawahalli	R.Ram Mohan	6/2	1 Acre 06.08 Guntas	Land in Sy No.2/2 & 2/3	Land in Sy No.26/2	Land in Sy No.6/4	Land in Sy No.5
Gorawahalli	R.Ram Mohan	29/1	24 Guntas	Land in Sy No.29/2	Land in Sy No.29/3	Land in Sy No.27/4	Land in Sy No.32/1 & 30/1
Gorawahalli	R.Ram Mohan	36/1	15 Guntas	Land in Sy No.36/2	Yalachahalli Border	Land in Sy No.21	Land in Sy No.37/1
Gorawahalli	R.Ram Mohan	36/2	15 Guntas	Land in Sy No.35/2	Land in Sy No.36/1	Land in Sy No.21	Land in Sy No.37/1
Tavarekere	R.Ram Mohan	32/1	1 Acre 05 Guntas	Land in Sy No.32/4	Land in Sy No.29	Land in Sy No. 29	Land in Sy No.33
Gorawahalli	T.L. Manjunath	10/1	2 Acre 27 Guntas	Land in Sy No.10/3	Bheemapura Border	Land in Sy No.10/4	Land in Sy No.10/2
Gorawahalli	T.L. Manjunath	10/3	5 Acre	Lake	Land in Sy No.10 & 11	Bheerahally Border	Land in Sy No. 9 & 12
Gorawahalli	T.L. Manjunath	10/4	2 Acre 26 Guntas	Land in Sy No.10/3	Bheemapura Border	Bheerahally Border	Land in Sy No.10/1

All the above said lands are situated at Gorawhalli and Tavarekere Village, Nandagudi Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Any Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within 15 days from this day to the undersigned.

KCS ASSOCIATES,Advocates,
No.G-1, Ground Floor, "Sai Smaran Apartments",1st Main Road Pai Layout, Bangalore-560016. Purchaser Ph No. 9742555553 / 9964123644

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.:EEP/e-tender — Date: 28.04.2022

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement Portal Only)

E-tenders are published in GoK, e-portal **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** under **"GOODS"** category on **23.04.2022, 26.04.2022, 28.04.2022,** as per RTPS requirements for the procurement of following materials. **1).** RTPS/MRP54/G/21-22/4016/Call-2, O-Rings, **2).** RTPS/ MRP06/G/21-22/4600/Call-2, Fine Chemicals for RTPS, YTPS, BTPS, **3).** RTPS/MRP07/G/21-22/ 4585/Call-3, Chemical Lab Apparatus, **4).** RTPS/MRP54/G/21-22/ 4026/Call-2, Butterfly Vavle & its spares, **5).** RTPS/MRP54/ G/21-22/4029/Call-2, Pipes & Fittings, **6).** RTPS/ MRP54/G/21-22/4020/Call-2, Shims for RTPS, **7).** RTPS/MRP52/G/21-22/3760, Mill side Liners, **8).** RTPS/MRP62/G/21-22/1445/Call-3, Hydraulic Drive Motor-83, **9).** RTPS/MRP29/G/21-22/3925/Call-2, Tools like Spanners, Wrench, etc., for RTPS, **10).** RTPS/ MRP72/G/21-22/1487/Call-3, Spares for Clarifier and DM Plant, **11).** RTPS/ MRP58/G/21-22/1687/Call-2, Pump Spares,**12).** RTPS/ MRP72/G/21-22/1478/Call-2, MSEL Ventury Ejectors,**13).** RTPS/MRP72/G/21-22/1476/ Call-3, Spares for Clarifier & DM Plant, **14).** RTPS/ MRP72/G/21-22/1477/Call-2, MS Rubber Lined Tank/Vessels, **15).** RTPS/MRP30/G/21-22/4252, Welding Electrodes, Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: For Sl. No. 9: **12.05.2022, 16:00Hrs.** For Sl. No. 10 to 15: **13.05.2022, 16:00Hrs.** For Sl. No. 3 & 7: **14.05.2022, 16:00Hrs.** For Sl. No. 8: **16.05.2022, 16:00Hrs.** For Sl. No. 4 & 5 : **18.05.2022, 16:00Hrs.** For Sl. No. 1,2 & 6 : **19.05.2022, 16:00Hrs.** All relevant details of the bids are available in the above mentioned e-portal. Any further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (Purchase), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District,** Cell: **94495 96527,** E-mail id: **eeprtps@gmail.com.**

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No.16 C-1, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru - 560052.
Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
E-mail: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: www.karunadu.karnataka.gov.in/kerc

No: KERC/DD(Trans.)/Y/01/2022/119 Date: 04-05-2022

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Sub: The Draft "KERC (Procurement of Energy from Renewable Sources) (Eighth Amendment) Regulations, 2022.

The Commission has published the draft "KERC (Procurement of Energy from Renewable Sources) (Eighth Amendment) Regulations, 2022, seeking Objections / Suggestions / Views from Stakeholders and Interested Persons. The above draft is published in the Karnataka Gazette on 20-04-2022 and stakeholders need to submit their Objections / Suggestions / Views within 21 days from the date of the publication.

Meanwhile, the Commission has scheduled a public hearing in the matter **on 20-05-2022 in the Court Hall of the Commission at 11.00 AM.** Stakeholders / Interested Persons may participate in the hearing and submit their views in person before the Commission. The above draft Regulations are available on the KERC's Website: **www.karnataka.gov.in/kerc.**

DIPR/CP/376/2022-23

Sd/- Secretary
For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Special Material Facility , Challakere

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The SuperintendingEngineer, SMF, Challakere, BARC, Mysore invites on behalf of President of India online item rate bids on two envelope system for following work(s):

NIT No. BARC/SMFC/MRSS/HVAC/2022/CMAC/NIT

Name of Work "Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for 72 HP HITACHI Make VRF Air conditioner System at BARC SMFC Challakere"- Extension for sale of tender documents

Estimated Cost: **Rs.3.44Lakhs.** Earnest money: **Rs.6880/- &** Period of completion **:12 (Twelve) Calendar months**

The last date of purchase & download of tender document is extended upto **12.05.2022(15:00)** and submission of bid **19.05.2022 up to 15:00 Hrs.**

For the details of NIT contact **0821 240 6660, 9000114182**
email: **gshegde@barc.gov.in; psreddy@barc.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer

SAINIK SCHOOL KODAGU
(Under Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PO Kudige Dist: Kodagu, Karnataka PIN: 571232

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW :: TGT (ENGLISH)

A walk-in-interview will be conducted for the post of TGT (ENGLISH) in Sainik School Kodagu on 11 May 2022 (Wednesday). Interested candidates are to report to Sainik School Kodagu at 0900 hrs on 11 May 2022 along with original and copies of Qualifications and Experience Certificates. The post is purely on temporary / part-time basis and will be renewed from time to time as required by the School. Salary negotiable. For detailed Notification and Application Form, visit School website **www.sainikschoolkodagu.edu.in** from 05 May 2022 (Thursday). The School administration reserves the right to cancel the vacancy due to administrative reasons.

PRINCIPAL

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the e-Auction Notification No. **BDA/EM/e-Auction/T-01/2022-23 dated 07.04.2022 published in this newspaper on 08.04.2022** due to a technical error the auction of Sites of Sl No. 1 to 75 were cancelled.BDA regrets for the inconvenience. These Sites are being re-auctioned. Date and Time for opening of e-Auction & commencement of live bidding: 05.05.2022; 11.00 AM IST. Last date and time to express interest of participation: 18.05.2022; 6.00 PM IST. Date and time for closing e-Auction: 19.05.2022; 6.00 PM IST. The other terms and conditions remain the same.

Sd/- Engineer Member

TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
CHENNAI – 32.

Sealed tenders are invited for **"State wide survey & compile the directory of manufacturers and distributors of eco-alternative materials for Single Use Plastics for the entire state of Tamilnadu and furnishing to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board".**

TENDER NOTICE NO: T1/TNPCB/F.025993/Plastic Ban/2021 Dt: 04.05.2022

To carry out State wide survey & compile the directory of manufacturers and distributors of eco-alternative materials for Single Use Plastics for the entire state of Tamilnadu and furnishing to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

The tender documents can be downloaded from **www.tenders.tn.gov.in & www.tnpcb.gov.in** on or after **05.05.2022.** The last date for the receipt of the tender is **20.05.2022.**

Chairman
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai – 600 032.

DIPR/2155/TENDER/2022

Greater Chennai Corporation
STORM WATER DRAIN DEPARTMENT

S.W.D.C.No.B3/0616/2022

E- Short Tenders are invited for the following work in two cover as detailed below.

Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Services for the Work of Demolition and Reconstruction of Old drain / New Construction of Storm Water Drain in various locations in Chennai city in Zone - 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 15. under various schemes Work value

Rs.482.26 crores, EMD, Rs.1,16,00,000/-

Tender Last Date & Time of Submission 19.05.2022 upto 3.00 PM
Bidding documents are available online on www.tntenders.gov.in
Tender open date & time 20.05.2022 at 3.30 PM

Superintending Engineer / SWDD

DIPR/ 2153 / Tender / 2022

Inevitable increase

The RBI's increase in interest rates was long overdue

The penny has dropped. After stubbornly holding off from acting to tame inflation, which has steadily eroded consumers' purchasing power and derailed broader economic momentum, the RBI's rate setting panel on Wednesday announced an 'off-cycle' increase in benchmark interest rates. The Monetary Policy Committee voted to raise the policy repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.4% with immediate effect. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das rationalised that letting inflation remain elevated at current levels for too long risked 'de-anchoring inflation expectations' and consequently hurting growth and financial stability. While Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent western sanctions on Moscow have roiled the outlook for prices on a range of commodities, including wheat, edible oil, crude oil and coal, Indian households' perception and expectations of inflation have been running well above the RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6% for more than two years. That the RBI has been forced to act now, after insisting that price pressures were 'transitory', is a belated yet welcome acknowledgment that the economic costs of failing to anchor price stability can potentially be far more deleterious to growth than a relative decrease in the availability of low-cost credit. To cite Mr. Das: "Sustained high inflation... hurts savings, investment, competitiveness and output growth. It has pronounced adverse effects on the poorer segments ... by eroding their purchasing power."

In explaining its decision to raise borrowing costs for the first time in 45 months, the MPC has acknowledged that the overall outlook for inflation has darkened considerably since it met last month. Prices are on a tear globally and inflationary pressures are broadening worldwide. The IMF last month posited that the war in Ukraine was poised to not only slow global growth in 2022 but would also cause inflation to accelerate by 2.6 percentage points to 5.7% in advanced economies this year, and spur a more appreciable quickening of 2.8 percentage points in the case of emerging market and developing economies. With central banks in advanced economies led by the U.S. Federal Reserve pursuing a path of policy normalisation, the prospects of volatility in capital flows adding pressure on the exchange rate and consequently heightening the risks of imported inflation have also surely queered the pitch for the RBI. The fact that the novel coronavirus is still lurking and it could trigger a fresh wave of infections, as seen in China, adds considerably to the uncertainty. Monetary authorities have also rightly pointed to the impact that the increases in domestic pump prices of petroleum products have had on inflation. The onus is now squarely on the RBI and fiscal authorities to move in lockstep and take every possible measure including cutting fuel taxes to keep inflation from running away and landing the economy in stagflation.

In the time of war

India will have to find a way of building ties with Europe without upsetting Russia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-nation visit to Europe comes at a time when the continent is facing its biggest security crisis since the end of the Cold War. In Germany, Mr. Modi and Chancellor Olaf Scholz reiterated the partnership between the two countries. Berlin has also announced €10 billion for bilateral cooperation. In Copenhagen, Mr. Modi attended the India-Nordic summit with leaders of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland. In the last leg, the Prime Minister will hold talks in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron, who was re-elected recently. While bilateral issues are at the centre of these meetings, the elephant in the room is the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Mr. Modi's trip comes a few days after the President of the European Commission, Ursula von Der Leyen, visited India. New Delhi's neutral position on the war has triggered both criticism and engagement from the West. India has seen several high-profile visits from the West, with some top officials pressing New Delhi to cut back on trade with Russia, a traditional strategic partner. Among the Nordic five, Sweden and Finland are now considering dropping their decades-long neutrality and seeking NATO membership.

In Germany, however, both sides showed pragmatism over the Ukraine question. Germany, like India, has deep economic ties with Russia – if for India it is about defence supplies, for Germany, it is for almost 40% of its gas import requirements. While the Russian aggression has prompted Germany to raise its defence spending and join the western sanctions regime, it has been reluctant in sending weapons to Kyiv, compared to other NATO members in Eastern Europe. While Mr. Scholz urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to "stop this senseless murder and withdraw your troops", Mr. Modi's response was more measured. He said that no party could emerge victorious and that dialogue was the only way out. India and Germany also unveiled the contours of the next level of their partnership. Germany has said India is its "central partner" in Asia and that close cooperation would continue to expand. Europe is expected to take a more securitised approach to foreign policy from now, given the direction of the Ukraine conflict. In the post-Cold War world when Europe witnessed relative stability, India managed to build strong ties with both the West and Russia. But that era of multi-directional partnerships is facing its strongest test now with the West seeking to "weaken" Russia and Moscow warning of a new world war. The challenge before New Delhi is to build a stronger strategic future with Europe without immediately disrupting its complex but vital partnership with an increasingly isolated, angry Russia.

Economic speed bumps yes, but no breakdown

Nepal's vulnerability is linked to the lack of pragmatic policy interventions and abrupt moves towards self-sufficiency

K.V. RAJAN & ATUL K. THAKUR

Nepal's economic challenges are real, but suggestions that it is already in deep crisis and may be going the Sri Lanka way are probably premature, unfair and unjustified. The surging trade deficit remains a big concern as it is expected to reach $18 billion this fiscal year. A Balance of Payments (BoP) deficit and a spiralling debt liability will pose a very grave risk to the economy that is already in deep trouble. Nepal's central bank statistics show the country's inflation averaged 7.14% in the current fiscal, which is the highest in the last 67 months.

Emerging scenario

There are other worrying trends. The country's debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio has crossed over 40% as of the second quarter of the current fiscal year. What is needed is a prudent fiscal management plan. So is the need to boost demand and empower Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with soft institutional liquidity support. To emerge from the shocks caused by the BoP deficit to the tune of NR258.64 billion, the decrease in remittance inflow and the fall in the country's foreign exchange reserve by 16.3% to NR1,171 billion (in mid-March 2022 from NR1,399.03 billion in mid-July 2021), industry needs hand holding by the government and a rationalisation of taxes. Such a collaborative effort will help in increasing national economic productivity and mitigating the systemic risk on the economic front.

A lack of pragmatic policy interventions in Nepal and an abrupt move to reorient economic planning towards 'self-sufficiency' has exposed the structural vulnerability of Nepal's economy. It is also true, and unfortunate, that Nepal's economy is overtly politicised. Tensions between the Finance Minister, Janardan Sharma, and the Governor of the Central Bank, Maha Prasad Adhikari, with Mr. Sharma suspending Mr. Adhikari for alleged failures in discharging his responsibilities have undoubtedly contributed to the uncertainty. Mr. Adhikari has been reinstated on orders by the country's Supreme Court, but the damage has been done.

In the short run, the government's revenue and expenditure should be assessed for minimising the establishment cost. Especially so, it is needed for provincial governments where the operational part must be dealt with frugally to not burden the economy beyond a point. While several drastic measures such as an import ban on luxury goods and reducing working hours have been announced, these have not quite succeeded in allaying fears of an impending crisis. The ban on imported goods that have no competent alternatives in the domestic market will only hurt the economy until the production of domestically-consumable goods is increased. Fortunately, there are some positive signs of an economic recovery appearing, with tourism picking up thanks to the easing of visa and entry restrictions and foreign remittances also showing an upward trend. These need to be consolidated.

India will, undoubtedly, go the extra mile to help Nepal ensure a speedy and comprehensive recovery. India has not hesitated in being generous and in coming to Sri Lanka's help despite political considerations which might have suggested other approaches. In Nepal's case, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is a known friend of India who likes to accord priority to development rather than playing to the political gallery.

His recent visit to India was successful in terms of reaching an important understanding on economic cooperation projects. It should be possible for Nepal to expect generous Indian support for its economic recovery to be based on broad-based consensus in Nepal which will also eventually help in resolving bilateral irritants that keep cropping up every now and then.

What Nepal's national economy is facing today is a sort of crisis in the making.

Of late, the government is finding it difficult to overlook the difficult trade deficit but unfortunately with wrongly-placed measures such as curbing the autonomy of the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) and vilifying import per se instead of making interventions for much-needed structural economic reforms. The NRB underlines problem areas such as rising inflation, BoP deficit, decreasing remittance inflow, depleting foreign exchange reserves and burgeoning imports beyond an acceptable level. The NRB's projection of a looming crisis has no takers in the Finance Ministry – that is on making strange short-term provisions rather finding the way out to avert a crisis in making.

Nepal is in dire need of augmenting its preparedness on the domestic economic front along with a need-based infrastructural haul to impart the right momentum to an economy that is overtly politicised and not inspiring enough for big business ideas to prevail and flourish. Nepal's political economy should get the traction of national consensus to fulfil the aspirations of the people and also reposition the country to the global state with its strengthened economic prowess.

To not give an adverse response to the usual flow of goods and services, the government should lift the ban on imported goods which do not have competent alternatives in the domestic market. Until such time as Nepal makes a move to increase the production of domestically-consumable goods and end the cartel of businesses embracing competition and innovations, it would be helpful if Nepal remains open to successfully complete a mandatory transition of present sort.

There is no magic wand to ensure economic reforms and avert a crisis-like scenario. Nepal's neighbour and the world's largest democracy, India, is a fine example of a country that braved a severe BoP crisis in 1991 and transformed the economy through a sustained wave of economic reforms without letting political preferences override significant economic matters. In the time when isolation cannot steer the growth impulses of the economy, it is important for Nepal to cope with the shortage of industrial production and pressure of trade imbalance through excessive imports but without stopping to remain open to the world for healthy collaboration.

Geopolitical changes

The broad geopolitical and economic trends are also suggestive of doors opening to more active Nepali participation in the Indo-Pacific economic agenda, with the Nepalese Parliament approving the $500 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) grant from the United States; this could substantially upgrade energy cooperation between India and Nepal, and also India agreeing to the United Kingdom, the European Union and other major investment partners working together in third countries on development projects. Interestingly, the Nepalese seem to have independently made a reassessment of risks in recklessly deepening ties with China, thanks in large measure due to Beijing's missteps, and the style and the substance of Chinese-delivered assistance.

There is much greater receptivity and a "felt need" across the political spectrum and in public discussion of the genuineness of India's friendship aimed at contributing to the welfare of people of Nepal. The decision of the Government of India to set up an inter-ministerial standing group under the chairmanship of the Foreign Secretary, to coordinate sections and ensure more rapid follow-up of project decisions is also a welcome step.

Business leaders in India should be encouraged to be proactive in looking for new opportunities in expanding and diversifying trade and investment ties with Nepal including exploring possibilities in the context of a reset of supply chains in the post COVID-19 situation. There is no doubt that the economic challenges in the post COVID-19 situation, and the overall churning in the geopolitical environment have created an opportunity for both countries to devise innovative approaches to long-standing issues and to aim for new horizons in bilateral cooperation.

It is vital that Nepal deepen its economic ties with India and facilitate joint ventures that create immense economic opportunities. India's unwavering commitment to peace and prosperity in Nepal and its complementarity in its relations with Nepal will help in creating a healthier economic ecosystem in Nepal. While the economic scenario is troubled – and it is unlikely that Nepal will emerge from it soon – it would be wrong to assume that a condition akin to a breakdown is inevitable in Nepal. Economic adversity has created the space for course correction and Nepal should be encouraged to devise a fresh approach to achieve this through calibrated efforts.

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A script for a national footprint, a Telangana hat-trick

It remains to be seen whether the TRS's move to consult election strategist Prashant Kishor will fetch the party dividends

K. VENKATESHWARLU

At the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS)'s plenary held in Hyderabad recently, when the Telangana Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, made his intentions clear about expanding the party's national footprint by going at "misgovernance" by the Bharatiya Janata Party hammer and tongs, it was apparent that he was sticking to the script prepared by the high-profile election strategist, Prashant Kishor.

'A common agenda'

Mr. Kishor had flown down to Hyderabad after his attempt to make headway with advising the Indian National Congress party and even finding a role in it misfired. Mr. Kishor was in confabulations with Mr. Rao over two days and drew up a blueprint on how the TRS could execute its "go national" action plan. Mr. Rao's assertions at the plenary looked to be much in sync with Mr. Kishor's strategy of the Opposition taking on the BJP in the 2024 general election. As if on cue, Mr. Rao, laying bare his national political ambitions, spoke of India needing an "alternative political agenda, and ridding the country of the religious hatred spread by the BJP ruling at the Centre". He laid emphasis on a common agenda for India and not so much on a political front "to make someone a Prime Minister". An agenda was needed that included an integrated agricultural policy and reorienting the goals of sectors such as industry to meet the aspirations of the people. He noted that people were tired of the BJP's single point programme of stoking religious passions across the country and wondered if the United Progressive Alliance was better.

Plan for 2023 is unclear

These are familiar semantics that have matched Mr. Kishor's efforts in trying to build alternative political formations across the country to fight the BJP. In recent interviews to the media, Mr. Kishor, who quit his Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) group, revealed his future political trajectory of being on the other side of the BJP camp, citing how the saffron party has drifted away from the basic principles of the Indian Constitution. He went on to suggest a "realignment, redesigning and rebooting" of national and regional parties to counter the BJP, putting on the table an "alternative narrative", all this while exuding confidence that defeating the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was indeed in the realm of possibility. In his view, it was not necessary to have a grand pre-poll alliance or project a particular leader as a prime ministerial candidate.

Mr Kishor and his I-PAC's strategy for the TRS to realise its pan-India dream may look sound and attractive going by the dramatic preview presented by Mr. Rao at the plenary, but there is no clarity yet on his formulation for the Telangana Assembly elections due in 2023. The TRS will be seeking a mandate for a third term from voters who appear fatigued with the

FILE PHOTO/NAGARA GOPAL

governance and the policies for over eight years now. Mr. Kishor has his task cut out and there is expectation that he will wipe out a two-term load of anti-incumbency.

Unfulfilled promises

Notwithstanding its tall claims, many of the promises made by the TRS remain unfulfilled. Opposition parties, the Congress and the BJP, contend that but for a handful of villages in Gajwel (Mr. Rao's Assembly constituency), Siddipet (represented by Mr. Rao's nephew and Finance Minister T. Harish Rao) and Sircilla (represented by Mr. Rao's son, IT Minister, K.T. Rama Rao), not many double bedroom houses have been built anywhere in Telangana. Under "Mission Bhagiratha", a programme to supply tap water, only 40% of the households have been covered. Round-the-clock free power supply promised to the farm sector is patchy. A plethora of problems haunt the 23 newly carved out districts. After failing to convince the Central government to procure the entire stock of paddy from the State, the TRS government grandly announced that it would do it on its own, but finds the going tough.

The financial situation is not too comfortable either. Far from having in place proactive policy decisions that could checkmate the BJP, the TRS government has been spending beyond its means on non-productive schemes and freebies and then approaching the Centre for relaxing Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management norms and the allocation of more funds. The Rythu Bandhu, the farmers' investment support scheme, involves an annual outgo of about ₹16,000 crore. Another new scheme, Dalit Bandhu, which extends ₹10 lakh assistance to each beneficiary, is estimated to cost about ₹17,000 crore annually. The TRS government has been heavily dependent on loans from various agencies, touching a whopping ₹2.41 lakh crore, since the formation of Telangana in 2014.

So will Mr. Kishor's magic strategy help the TRS turn the tide and pull off a hat-trick? Mr. Rama Rao is sceptical. "People should understand [that] Kishor's I-PAC is just to supplement our efforts. If we don't have public support, they can't save us, PK [Prashant Kishor] or some outsider can't save a sinking ship...." It is widely believed that Mr. Rao's national foray is also meant to keep the top political seat in Telangana warm for Mr. Rama Rao. Detractors also point to the fact that Mr Rao, for all his claims of being a veteran political strategist, may have sent out a signal of being on shaky ground by hiring the services of I-PAC.

I-PAC's plan of action for the TRS was kicked off amid huge confusion caused by Mr. Kishor's running with the hare and hunting with hounds strategy– attempting a lateral entry into the Congress in Delhi while lending political advice to the Congress's arch rival in Hyderabad, the TRS. Among other inputs, he is believed to have almost suggested to the Congress to go for an electoral alliance with the TRS. It caused a furore within the Telangana Congress while the BJP watched with glee at how the two parties plunged into chaos. With Mr. Kishor clearing the air, there was relief in the Congress and TRS camps.

Some gains for the BJP

Leaving aside the commissioning of a professional political strategist for the elections, the issue is about how the TRS plans to take on a resurgent BJP in Telangana. The BJP has posted some handsome wins in elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and by-elections to the Dubbak and Huzurabad Assembly constituencies. But for platitudes, TRS has not much to offer. It has not come up with any concrete plan to check the strident hate and polarising campaign being run by the BJP in Telangana. BJP leaders appear to be getting away making provocative speeches, the recent example being that of the BJP MLA, T. Raja Singh, during the Rama Navami procession in Hyderabad. The TRS' unwritten understanding with the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) often comes in handy for the BJP to question the TRS's moral authority to speak and act against communal parties. Yet, with its sights set on grabbing national political space and attention, the TRS still recognises the BJP as being its main political rival.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Aid for Sri Lanka

The move to try and provide aid to Sri Lanka, by Tamil Nadu, is commendable. But it would be better if the ground realities are assessed first before providing what is needed to reduce shortages. It might be a better deal if India provides assistance for projects that ensure food self-sufficiency.

KARTHIK G.,
Chennai

Climate resilience

The scorching heat wave in several parts of the country is one more grim pointer to the debilitating effects of global warming induced climate change. Not long ago, the IPCC warned about the growing vulnerability of India to adverse weather events. The alarming frequency with which the country experiences devastating deluges and crippling droughts in recent times should hasten the process of the country's transition to a green economy by investing heavily in ramping up non-fossil fuels energy production to meet India's burgeoning energy needs. Concerted and time-bound measures to build climate-resilient infrastructure brook no delay.

M. JEYARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Nepal visit

No one can beat the BJP in utilising real or manufactured opportunities involving the Opposition to further its political prospects. In this aspect, one cannot underestimate the role played by the ruling party's Information Technology cell. One can certainly say that the BJP's IT cell lived up to its name and fame and once again showed its creativity – by tweeting and sharing videos about the recent visit of the Congress party's former president to Kathmandu (Inside pages, "War of words over Rahul's visit to nightclub", May 4). This viral content about Rahul Gandhi on social media will only reinforce some tailor-made imagery – of course, which was carefully cultivated in the minds of the masses by the BJP over time – regardless of explanations by the Congress. Had the Congress shown similar creativity in storytelling and an online presence long ago, it may not have had much of a difficult time convincing the people about the adverse impacts originating from the actions and inactions of the present regime.

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Inflation control needs another model

Lasting inflation control would require placing agricultural production on a steady footing

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN
& M. PARAMESWARAN

Koyambedu market in Chennai. • B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Inflation is back as a talking point in the public arena, some would say belatedly, for wholesale price inflation has been in the double digits for over 12 months. India's official measure of inflation, the rate of change of the consumer price index, has now breached the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s upper target of 6% for three months continuously. At the conclusion of the April meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee had already warned that the focus will henceforth be on inflation. Yesterday it raised the repo rate somewhat sooner than was expected by the market.

It may appear contradictory to ask whether the RBI's stated policy of 'inflation targeting', implemented through changes in the interest rate, can control inflation, but we show here why that would be justified.

Discourse on inflation

The discourse on inflation engaged in by Western central banks, which has been adopted in toto by their Indian counterpart, is so abstruse that it is not understood even by many economists. So, we begin with an explainer.

The starting point of this discourse is that inflation reflects an excess of output over its 'natural' level. Inflation targeting refers to the policy of controlling inflation by raising the interest rate over which the central bank has control, i.e. the rate at which it lends to commercial banks, the so-called 'repo rate'. This, it is argued, will induce firms to stay their investment plans and reduce inventories, lowering production. As economy-wide output declines, becoming equal to the natural level of output, inflation will cease. This story does not just legitimise a policy of output contraction for inflation but sees it as optimal. The natural level of output itself is the productive counterpart of the natural level of employment, the level that obtains in a freely functioning labour market. So, at the natural level of output, the economy is deemed to be at full employment.

It is left unstated, but salient in the context, that the natural level of output is unobservable. Hence inflation as a reflection of an "overheating" economy is something that must be taken on trust. Surely it is disturbing that India's official model of inflation control is based on so unscientific a foundation. At least, the view of inflation that had ruled the central banks of the west before they adopted inflation targeting was based on something tangible, namely, the growth of the money supply.

Not surprisingly for a theory based on an unobservable variable, the proposition that inflation is due to an overheating economy fares poorly when put to a statistical test for India. We are not aware of a single demonstration of the empirical validity of the model of inflation presented in the RBI report of 2014, which recommended a move to inflation targeting. On the other hand, in our published research, we explain inflation in India in terms of the movement of the prices of agricultural goods and, to a lesser extent, imported oil. The implication of this finding is damaging for the claim that monetary policy can control inflation, for neither the price of agricultural goods nor that of imported oil is under the central bank's control. The only route by which monetary policy can, in principle, control inflation is by curbing the growth of non-agricultural output, which would in turn lower the growth of demand for agricultural goods. As the demand for agricultural goods slows, so will inflation, but this comes at the cost of output and employment. At least, this is the theory. Whether this takes place in practice depends upon the extent to which changes in the repo rate are transmitted to commercial bank lending rates.

Agricultural goods prices

The implication for the policymaker that inflation is driven by agricultural goods prices, as is the case in India presently, is that the focus should be on increasing the supply of these goods. This could be a win-win solution, for as agricultural production grows faster, the economy expands without inflation. Ideally, food prices should decline, for the consequent rise in demand for other goods will propel the economy forward. But the product mix of agriculture becomes relevant here. Growing per capita income in India has shifted the average consumption basket towards foods rich in minerals, such as fruits and vegetables, and protein, such as milk and meat. But the expansion of the supply of these foods has been lower than the growth in demand for them. So a concerted drive to increase the supply of food other than rice and wheat holds the key. There was a time when the leadership of the RBI understood this, but now its leadership appears unwilling to acknowledge native wisdom.

Increasing agricultural supply at steady if not declining prices is not going to be easy for political reasons. The States have not shown themselves to be particularly sensitive to the charge that they do little to ensure a supply of cheap food for the rest of the country, or even themselves in some cases. When they do produce surpluses, their only concern is that these be procured by the central government at the highest price. The stances of the leaders of wheat-producing northern States and rice-producing southern ones reflect this. Under these circumstances, a nation-wide project for producing food cheaply remains a distant dream. Now that the farm laws have been repealed, it is the time to initiate a discussion on how such a project can be taken forward. Costly food threatens the health of the population, as people economise on their food intake, and holds back the economy, as only a small part of a household's budget can be spent on non-agricultural goods.

Monetary policy manouvres, typified by the RBI's raising of the repo rate yesterday, is not an efficient solution for an agricultural price-driven inflation. Any lasting inflation control would require placing agricultural production on a steady footing, with continuously rising productivity. This would require a re-orientation of farm policy. Since the time of the Green Revolution, the focus has been on raising output, that too of the superior cereals. The inflation caused by continuously raising procurement prices for these crops and slow growth elsewhere in the food-producing sector has been swept under the carpet. The time has come to end this folly. Until then, inflation targeting by a committee accountable to no one will remain a charade.

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The workers hit the hardest

Women and salaried workers have been affected the most by the pandemic in India

MAHESH VYAS

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)'s Consumer Pyramids Household Survey, employment in India fell from 408.9 million in 2019-20 to 387.2 million in 2020-21 and then recovered to 401.8 million in 2021-22. The recovery in 2021-22 was inadequate. Employment was still 1.7%, or 7 million short of the employment level of the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20. But this overstates the impact of the pandemic. Employment was on a declining trend even before the pandemic: it was falling at the rate of about 0.31% per annum. If that trend had continued uninterrupted by the pandemic, employment would have fallen by about 2.5 million from 408.9 million in 2019-20 to 406.3 million in 2021-22. And so, the hit to employment that can be attributed to the shock of the pandemic is about 4.5 million jobs, which is the more lasting net impact. The immediate impact was much bigger. Nearly 78 million jobs were lost during the quarter of June 2020, which roughly coincides with the first wave of COVID-19. Similarly, 13 million jobs were lost during the second wave during the quarter of June 2021. Most jobs lost during lockdowns were of the informal kinds. These come back when the restrictions on mobility were lifted. If the economy expands by about 7.5% in 2022-23, we expect about 6 million jobs to come back. That would still leave a deficit of a million even as many more get added to the working age population and the labour force.

As India struggles to generate the jobs it requires to engage all the additional people who enter the labour force in a year, the count of the unemployed and those out of the labour force keeps rising. In 2021-22, the unemployed who were actively seeking work but were unable to find any were estimated at 33 million. This was higher than the pre-pandemic levels. The 7 million jobs lost over the two years since the COVID-19 outbreak is unevenly distributed, so it may be difficult to cover most of this loss anytime soon.

Working from home

It has been seen in the past that women suffer job losses disproportionately during economic shocks. This was true during the pandemic. Women accounted for less than 11% of all jobs in 2019-20, but they accounted for nearly 52% of the 7 million job losses since then. In urban India, it was worse: women accounted for only 9% of total employment but accounted for a massive 76% of the job losses. The impact of this is a sharp fall in the labour participation of women. The female labour force participation rate among urban women was abysmally low at 9.4% in 2019-20 and fell to 7% in 2021-22.

Hopes that working from home would help women to join the labour force in large numbers have been belied. Working from home with the rest of the family also at home made it harder for women compared to the hardship of commuting to work. It is going to be difficult to cover the 3.6 million loss of employment among women during the pandemic.

Working from home also does not help those who have to go to work such as small traders/vendors and daily wage labourers, who account for the largest share of employment in India. Before the pandemic, in 2019-20, about 131 million or 32% of the total employment was in this form.

In April 2020, 79 million small traders and daily wage labourers lost employment. By July 2020, most of them were back to work. The lockdowns demonstrated both the vulnerability and the flexibility of this category of workers. They could enter and exit the labour markets with ease. Employment in the form of small traders and daily wage labourers was declining at the rate of 9.3%. In the two years of the pandemic, this rate of fall fell to 2.4% per annum.

The pandemic has reversed a trend of rising entrepreneurs. The count of entrepreneurs who, like small traders and daily wage labourers, also have the freedom to work when conditions permit has also come down – from 78 million in 2019-20 to 75 million in 2021-22. This fall of about 1% is in sharp contrast to the 13% per annum growth in entrepreneurs before the pandemic. But we expect entrepreneurship to rise again principally because of a lack of salaried jobs.

The biggest relative fall in employment is in the category of salaried employees (6.8%). About 5.9 million salaried employees have lost employment in the two years of the pandemic. Unlike daily wage labourers, small traders and entrepreneurs, salaried employees cannot go back to work at will. Except for a few high-skill jobs, finding a new salaried job is difficult. Investments into new large enterprises make this task particularly difficult. A salaried job is also the most coveted form of employment. But until the investment cycle restarts, it may be difficult to see any uptick in salaried jobs. Employing women and providing salaried jobs are the two big challenges that the pandemic has posed that are going to be difficult to tackle soon.

Mahesh Vyas is Managing Director and CEO, CMIE

STATE OF PLAY

A lesson from Gujarat for Kerala

Pinarayi Vijayan's decision to adopt administrative techniques from a BJP-ruled State is a bold move

BIJU GOVIND

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan triggered a political storm last week when he sent Chief Secretary V.P. Joy to Gujarat to study the techniques in the Gujarat Chief Minister's e-governance dashboard system. The UDF criticised the visit, especially in the light of Mr. Vijayan's and the CPI(M)'s uncompromising political position vis-a-vis BJP-ruled Gujarat. The Kerala Chief Minister and his party have often shown contempt for anyone praising the Gujarat model. In fact, in 2013, the CPI(M) had demanded the expulsion of the then Labour Minister in the Congress-led UDF government, Shibu Baby John, who had visited Gujarat on his way back to Kerala from New Delhi for half a day to learn more about its highly feted skill development programme.

Though the Minister later declared that Gujarat's skill development model was inappropriate for Kerala, the CPI(M) refused to back down on its demand. Earlier, in 2009, when a CPI(M) MP, A. P. Abdullakutty, spoke highly of then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and his State, he was expelled from the party. He then joined the Congress and was elected MLA twice, but was ousted from the Congress for the same reason. Mr. Abdullakutty is now the national vice president of the BJP.

Against this backdrop, Mr. Vijayan's desire to learn governance from a BJP-ruled State took Kerala by surprise. The Opposition parties predictably slammed the CPI(M) for what they called its double standards. While BJP State president K. Surendran remarked that the decision to send the Chief Secretary to study the dashboard system showed that the Chief Minister had realised the merits of the Gujarat model, the CPI(M) State leadership was at pains to defend the decision, particularly in the absence of Mr. Vijayan who is out of the country for medical treatment.

The Gujarat CM Dashboard, developed in 2019 under former Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, is considered an e-governance marvel with 3,400 indicators of 20 government sectors, 740 web services and APIs and integration of 183 eGov applications.

After his Gujarat visit, Mr. Joy called the dashboard a "first-of-its-kind initiative" and said that it effectively monitored delivery of public services and gave feedback directly from beneficiaries. Through the system, the Chief Minister can monitor the implementation of various schemes and basic services such as State transport, street lights and drinking water supply in any part of the State. Mr. Joy was also quoted as saying that he was keen on setting up in Kerala a centre similar to the Vidya Samiksha Kendra (Command and Control Centre for Schools) in Gujarat.

This is not to say that Kerala is lagging behind in IT-enabled governance. At present, the State has statistics to monitor the timely delivery of 471 dashboards in 38 departments connected to 53 websites. Many of these are worth emulating: Kerala's COVID-19 dashboard, for instance, was adopted by many States in India.

Mr. Vijayan's willingness to risk some political capital and adopt slightly more advanced administrative techniques from a State ruled by an ideologically incompatible party can be seen as a bold move to infuse more efficiency and transparency in governance. Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog, put this in perspective when he said: "Glad that the Kerala delegation visited Gujarat to study its data-driven monitoring model for schools. Many states have benefitted from Kerala's human developmental model.

"Similarly, in a large country like India, Kerala must learn from best practices of other States. This is federalism."

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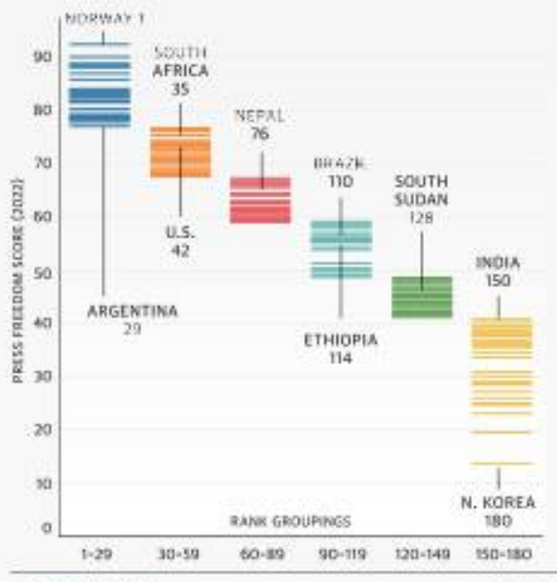
DATA POINT

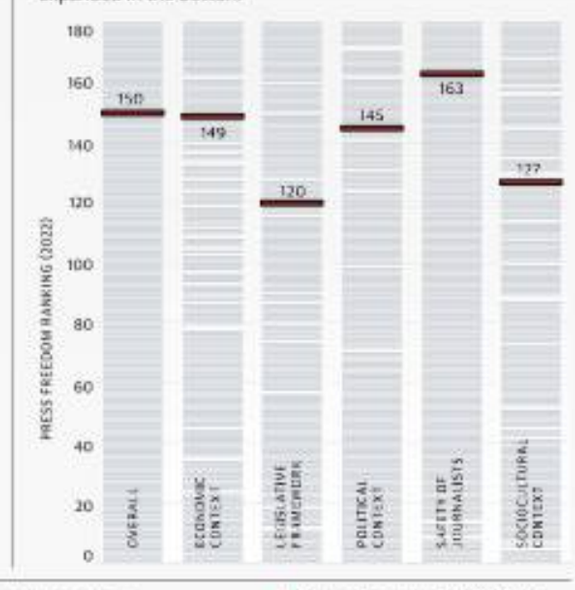
The worrying state of press freedom in India

In the 2022 edition of the Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders, India fell to the 150th position, its lowest ever, out of 180 countries. In the last edition, India was ranked eight points higher, at 142. The ranking is based on a country's performance in five broad categories: political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and safety of journalists. Of the five, India's ranking was lowest in the safety of journalists category (163) and best in the legal framework category (120). By **The Hindu Data Team**

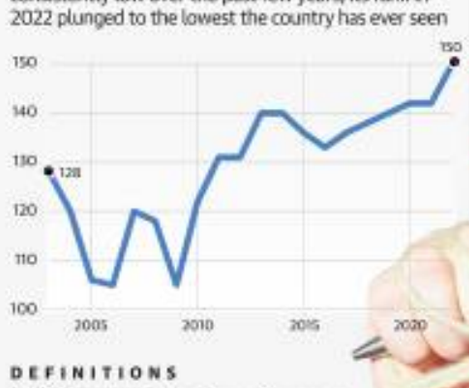
A DROP TO 150 | The chart shows the rankings of 180 countries in the 2022 Press Freedom Index. India has been ranked 150. Countries ranked lower than India include Sudan (151), Russia (155), Pakistan (157), Bangladesh (162) and China (175)



ACROSS CATEGORIES | The chart shows India's rankings across various categories in 2022. India ranked best in the legal framework category and worst in the safety of journalists category. The definition of each category is expanded in the bottom



NEW LOW | The chart shows India's rank in the Press Freedom Index. While India has ranked consistently low over the past few years, its rank in 2022 plunged to the lowest the country has ever seen



DEFINITIONS

Political context: The degree of support and respect for media autonomy vis-à-vis political pressure from the state or from other political actors

- The level of acceptance of a variety of journalistic approaches satisfying professional standards, including politically aligned approaches and independent approaches
- The degree of support for the media in their role of holding politicians and government to account

Legal framework: The degree to which journalists and media are free to work without censorship or judicial sanctions

- The ability to access information without discrimination, and the ability to protect sources
- The presence or absence of impunity for those responsible for acts of violence against journalists

Economic context: Economic constraints linked to governmental policies (including the difficulty of creating a news media outlet, favouritism in the allocation of state subsidies

- Economic constraints linked to non-state actors (advertisers and commercial partners)
- Economic constraints linked to media owners seeking to promote or defend their business interests

Sociocultural context: Social constraints resulting from denigration and attacks on the press based on such issues as gender, class, ethnicity and religion

- Cultural constraints, including pressure on journalists to not question certain bastions of power or influence or not cover certain issues

Safety: Ability to gather news without unnecessary risk of:

- Bodily harm (including murder, violence, arrest, detention and abduction)
- Psychological or emotional distress that could result from intimidation, coercion, harassment, surveillance, doxing (publication of personal information with malicious intent), degrading or hateful speech, smears and other threats targeting journalists
- Professional harm resulting from, for example, the loss of one's job, the confiscation or professional equipment, or the ransacking of installations

SOURCE: REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 5, 1972

Nationalising foreign oil companies

New Delhi, May 4: Demand for outright nationalisation of foreign oil companies and charges of corruption and bungling of high officials marked the Lok Sabha debate to-day on the demands for grants for the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals. References were made to "deep ties" between foreign oil companies and bureaucracy. The Government was asked not to "shield" guilty officials and was accused of "criminal complacency" in the vital sphere of the nation's economy. The nationalisation demand was made on the ground that Anglo-American oil companies had been putting up "fancy" prices for crude and reportedly repatriating even substantial portions of their reserves. Mr. Dinen Bhattacharya (CPM-WB), initiating the debate, said that foreign monopoly companies had "clandestinely" increased their refining capacity over the years in a bid to subvert indigenous production. The Soviet Union had offered to supply crude at cheaper costs but the companies refused to refine crude from any source other than their own. Supporting the demand for nationalisation, Mr. Inderjit Gupta (CPM-WB) said that the foreign oil companies had drastically reduced employment particularly in the eastern region.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 5, 1922

Destroyed by raiders

The following is an account of the raid on 30th March on "Freeman's Journal" taken from a mail paper: About one o'clock in the morning, the printing machinery of the Freeman's Journal, one of the three newspapers in Dublin, was destroyed by raiders acting under the orders of the Republican of Executive Council of the dissenting Irish Army men. About 12:30 a.m., a body of armed men closed round the newspaper's office. Scouts with revolvers held all the adjoining street corners. It is not quite clear how many there were, perhaps 120. A group of 40 suddenly appeared amid the astonished printers, who on the ground floor were busy turning out an edition of the "Weekly Freeman" from four large printing presses. It was an edition of 80,000 copies since there was a great demand throughout Ireland for the account and special photographs of the McMohan tragedy, the murder of a Roman Catholic publican (three of his sons, and a manager) which were to appear in it. The raiders burst in shouting, "Hands up. Get into line all of you and file out".

FROM PAGE ONE

RBI surprises with 40 bps rate increase

The RBI said since the MPC's meeting in April, disruptions, shortages and escalating prices induced by geopolitical tensions and sanctions had persisted and downside risks had risen.

The MPC was of the view that while economic activity was navigating the vortex of forces confronting the world with resilience on the strength of underlying fundamentals and buffers, the risks to the near-term inflation outlook were rapidly materialising, as reflected in the March inflation print and later developments.

"In this milieu, the MPC expects inflation to rule at elevated levels, warranting resolute and calibrated steps to anchor inflation expectations and contain second-round effects," it said.

Mr. Das stressed that the RBI was mindful of the possible near-term impact of higher interest rates on output, and would ensure 'adequate liquidity to meet the productive requirements of the economy'.

J&K delimitation panel award likely to be notified today

Completion of the exercise will pave way for polls, the first in the Union Territory

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

After over two years since it was appointed, the Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir is likely to make its award public on Thursday, according to officials aware of the development.

The number of constituencies and their boundaries is likely to be made public through a Gazette notification on Thursday morning, an official said. The completion of the delimitation exercise would pave the way for elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the first since the erstwhile State was split into two Union Territories and its special status under Article 370 of the Constitution withdrawn in August 2019.

Members of Delimitation Commission during their visit to Jammu, Monday on April 4, 2022. • PTI

The term of the commission, headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (retd.) and including Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra as a member, is set to end on Friday, after two extensions – first from March 6, 2021 to March 6 this year and then for two months till May 6.

Appointed on March 6, 2020, the commission was tasked with redrawing the boundaries of Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir and increasing the number of seats from 83 to 90. In its draft report, the commission proposed increasing six seats in Jammu region and one in Kashmir.

The commission had published its draft report, seeking public objections and suggestions, on March 14, and then visited Jammu and Kashmir in April to hold consultations.

The National Conference, whose three MPs are associate members of the Delimitation Commission, had rejected the panel's draft reports, raising concerns over the variation in population across seats and the creation of "islands" where parts of a constituency are completely cut off from the rest of it.

The NC also questioned the validity of the delimitation exercise, which is being carried out under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, a challenge to which is pending in the Supreme Court.

Centre again seeks more time in sedition law case

SC has fixed today for its disposal

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday asked the Supreme Court for a week more to file its response to pleas challenging the validity of the sedition law. This is the second time in two days the government is asking for an extension. Earlier, it had asked for 24 hours more to file its response to the petitions seeking to quash the colonial sedition law. The Centre has now made its latest request on the very eve of the much-anticipated final hearing of the sedition case on Thursday before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana.

The two-page application filed by the government on Wednesday merely said the drafting and approval of the contents of its response on whether or not sedition should survive in the penal code is taking "more time". The reply, it said, is still pending with the "competent authority". The application did not expand on the identity of this "competent authority".

The court, in its last hearing on April 27, had directed the Solicitor-General to file a counter-affidavit by the end of that week. Posting the case for May 5, the court had said it may hear arguments for the whole day. It had made it clear that it would not tolerate any adjournments on May 5. "It is most respectfully submitted that the drafting and approval of the affidavit is taking some more time and is pending with the competent authority. Therefore, the instant applicant prays for an extension of the time period set for filing the counter-affidavit by one week," said the government's application.

'President has no role to play in Perarivalan's plea'

"He wants to be released. He has suffered prison for over 30 years. We have passed judgments in the past in favour of life convicts who have served over 20 years of their sentence... There cannot be any discrimination in this case whatever be the magnitude of the crime... Basically, he wants to be free. He has acquired several educational qualifications in prison. He has shown good conduct. He has also acquired several diseases due to the long years in prison... We are not asking you for his release... If you are not willing to consider these aspects, we will consider ordering his release," Justice Rao told the Centre.

The court also asked why the Centre had to speak for the Governor.

"Why are you interested? The State has asked for his release and the Governor is bound by the State Council's advice under Article 161. The President has no role under Article 161. In case the Governor has a different opinion, he has to send it back to the State," Justice Rao told the Centre.

The Council of Ministers of Tamil Nadu had recommended Perarivalan's release way back in September 9, 2018.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for Tamil Nadu, argued that the prospect of the court waiting for the President's decision on the mercy plea, as put forward by the Centre, was "completely absurd". Mr. Dwivedi, along with Tamil Nadu Additional Advocate General Amit Anand Tiwari and advocate Joseph Aristotle, said federalism would go for a toss if that was allowed by the court.

Distinct powers

Mr. Dwivedi stated that the President and Governor exercised two distinct powers of mercy under Articles 72 and 161, respectively. The former exercised his power under the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers at the Centre while the latter depended on the State Council of Ministers.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and advocate Prabu Ramasubramanian, for Perarivalan, said the Governor had in the past, before referring the mercy plea to the President, never denied his responsibility to take a decision in the case.

"Instead, everytime he [Governor] came up with an excuse not to decide," Mr. Sankaranarayanan submitted.

HC rejects bail of 8 Koregaon accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday rejected the petition filed by eight accused in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case seeking default bail by challenging the Pune sessions court order taking cognisance of the chargesheet filed in the case.

A Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Jamadar was hearing a plea filed by Surendra Gadling, Varavara Rao, Sudhir Dhawale, Shoma Sen, Rona Wilson, Mahesh Raut, Vernon Gonsalves, and Arun Ferreira.

All of them assert they are entitled to same relief as Sudha Bharadwaj, co-accused who was granted bail on December 1, 2021 by the same Bench.

Their petition mentions, "Since all the applicants were in detention for well over 180 days without cognizance having been taken by the competent court, therefore they are entitled to be released on bail under the CrPC and UAPA."

They all were challenging the order passed by sessions judge K.D. Wadane on September 5, 2019 rejecting their default bail pleas.

They are now seeking bail on the grounds that the chargesheet was not filed before the Magistrate Court who could have committed the matter to the sessions court.

However the court ruled, "We find it difficult to accede to the submission that a factual error has crept in. A re-hearing of the matter on a point which was not urged at all, is impermissible in law, under the guise of review."

Curfew continues in Jodhpur

12 FIRs registered, 141 persons arrested after clash between two communities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Opposition BJP leaders boycotted a meeting of the peace committee convened by the district administration in Jodhpur on Wednesday following a clash between two communities, even as the curfew imposed in 10 police station limits of the city remained in force for the second consecutive day.

There were no fresh incidents of violence reported from anywhere in the city.

The police have registered 12 first information reports in connection with the violence.

They arrested 141 persons under Sections of the Indian Penal Code and Section 151 (arrest to prevent the commission of cognisable offences) of the Criminal Procedure Code. As many as nine policemen were injured in the violence.

On the lookout: Police personnel keep vigil during curfew in violence-hit Jodhpur on Wednesday. • PTI

'Innocents arrested'

Religious leaders from both the communities, Education Minister B.D. Kalla, and other representatives arrived at Circuit House on Wednesday afternoon, but BJP MLA Suryakanta Vyas and party office-bearers boycotted the peace committee meeting. Ms. Vyas alleged that the police were arresting innocent persons.

"We are willing to hold talks with all sides... But the government should first arrest the miscreants who put up Id flags on the [Jalori Gate] circle. They are clearly visible in the CCTV footages," Ms. Vyas said. The BJP leaders alleged that the police were acting with bias to protect criminal elements.

However, religious leader Mufti Sher Mohammed and Bada Ramdwara's Mahant Ram Prasad, who were present, issued an appeal to both the communities to maintain peace. Five senior police officers from Jaipur are camping in Jodhpur and nearly 1,000 policemen have been deployed.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has hit out at the BJP, accusing it of instigating riots in Rajasthan to create instability on the "instructions of [its] high command".

Mr. Gehlot, who represents Jodhpur's Sardarpura constituency, said there was no serious issue in the city that could have led to riots.

Identification delay stalled pension: MoD

Veterans upset; one-time special waiver given to 58,275 of them for April

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Identification of 58,275 pensioners was not received by the time of monthly closing, causing a delay in April pension disbursement and a one-time waiver had been given and pensions would be disbursed by the end of the day, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Wednesday after an outrage on the social media from the veterans community over the delay.

"In order to avoid hardship to such pensioners, a one-time special waiver has been accorded to these 58,275 pensioners to get their identification done by May 25, 2022. The pension for the month of April 2022 has now been processed and pension is due to be credited by end-of-day on May 04, 2022," a Ministry statement said.

All such pensioners were being informed about pending annual identification through SMS and email, it stated.

The MoD recently introduced a portal, System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH), to directly transfer pension to the pensioners.

Annual identification

Explaining the process, the Ministry said that all pensioners must complete annual identification in order to continue receipt of pension, which is usually done in November 2021 by all banks acting as pension disbursing agencies. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the government had extended the window for annual identification due on November 30, 2021 up to March 31, 2022.

"Accordingly, SPARSH has been successfully disbursing monthly pension to over five lakh pensioners, including 4.47 lakh pensioners who migrated from legacy system to SPARSH (retired after January 01, 2016) up to March 31, 2022," it noted. However, during the processing of pension for April 2022, it came to light that the annual identification of around 3.3 lakh pensioners was not updated.

A list was shared with all pension disbursing banks to share updated identification data, if any, and as a result, identification status of more than 2.65 lakh pensioners was updated on SPARSH by April 25, 2022.

However, banks could not confirm the identification for 58,275 pensioners and neither was their identification received directly on SPARSH by the time of monthly closing, the statement said, adding, "Hence, these pensioners were not paid their April pension by April 30, 2022."

SC to look into 'sealed cover jurisprudence'

On Wednesday, senior advocate Dushyant Dave and advocate Haris Beeran, for the media company, urged the court to take up the issue of sealed covers without delay.

"In Assam again, the same thing has happened where a sealed cover has been submitted in the case of Gujarat MLA. This needs to be decided authoritatively," Mr. Dave submitted.

The court agreed to examine the issue while it gave the Centre four weeks to file its counter affidavit in the *Media One* case.

Stays telecast ban

The court had stayed the telecast ban on *Media One* on March 15 while keeping open the question whether the internal government files, based on which the media company's security clearance was not renewed in an order on January 31, 2022, ought to be shared with the media company.

The court had questioned the government's decision to effectively shut down the business of the media house, Madhyamam Broadcasting Limited, which ran *Media One*, in the name of "national security and public order" without fully disclosing the specific reasons for revoking their security clearance.

The Bench had said the company was "surely entitled" to know the "particulars" of the ban.

Mr. Dave had stated that the court should not allow such bans. "Otherwise, no media or publication is safe. Everybody can be shut down anytime," he submitted.

MNS chief to continue stir, cadres get notice

In one incident outside his house, MNS leaders and former corporators Sandeep Deshpande and Santosh Dhuri ran away in a car after the police came to detain them. A woman police constable was injured as both leaders fled in the car. Minister of State for Home (Rural) Shambhuraje Desai said the government had taken a serious note of the incident.

"I am not interested in taking credit for anything. It was collective effort by all. Not only mosques, but even temples should also bring down loudspeakers if they are using it illegally," he said. Claiming that this was a social issue and not religious, Mr. Thackeray warned that if anyone tried to give it a religious corner, his party too would do the same.

Commenting on applications made by mosques for permission to use loudspeakers, he claimed that majority of them were illegal.

"How can you give them permission for loudspeakers? How can mosques be given permission for loudspeakers for 365 days? We [Hindus] have to take permission for our festivals on day-to-day basis," he added.

President Kovind bats for local languages

He was attending a Bodo conference

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday said it was the duty of the government to conserve and promote local languages.

His statement at the 61st annual conference of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha (BSS) in western Assam's Tamulpur attains significance after a row in Northeast India over the Centre's bid to make Hindi compulsory in high schools across the region.

The Bodo language is one of few tribal tongues in the northeast that uses the same Devanagari script as Hindi.

"The conservation and promotion of local languages is the responsibility of society and the government," Mr. Kovind said, appealing to the BJP-led Assam government to make efforts to promote the Bodo language.

Ram Nath Kovind at the 61st annual Bodo literary meet on Wednesday. • PTI

The President appreciated the BSS for making invaluable contributions for the past 70 years to strengthening the Bodo language, literature and culture. He noted that 17 writers in the language have so far received the Sahitya Akademi Award.

Indian booked for murders in Kuwait

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked an Indian national accused of killing his employer and his wife in Kuwait. The victims had allegedly withheld his passport to prevent him from leaving them, for whom he worked as a servant.

The case has been registered on a reference from the Ministry of External Affairs in December 2016, following a request from the authorities in Kuwait to extradite the accused, Santosh Kumar Rana.

He was sentenced to death by the State of Kuwait Court of First Instance Felonies in a judgment given *in absentia* on February 2012. It is alleged that he murdered Fahad Ben Nasser Ibrahim and his wife Salama Faraj Salem.

Chidambaram faces protests from lawyers

For taking up the suit of Keventer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Wednesday faced protests by lawyers claiming allegiance to the Congress outside the premises of the Calcutta High Court.

The lawyers were upset that the Congress leader was representing a private agro-processing firm, Keventer, in a case where the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has sought a probe.

Mr. Chowdhury had alleged corruption in the transfer of the State government's shares to the private company. Mr. Chowdhury had filed a public interest litigation (PIL) petition in 2018 demanding a probe by a Central agency into the process by which the shares of Metro Diary owned by the West Bengal government were transferred to Keventer Agro Ltd.

P. Chidambaram

Kaustav Bagchi, one of the lawyers, said Mr. Chidambaram was arguing that the petition filed by the State Congress president be quashed.

IN BRIEF

ISRO plans mission to Venus by Dec. 2024

NEW DELHI

After sending missions to the moon and Mars, ISRO is now readying a spacecraft to orbit Venus to study what lies below the surface of the hottest planet in the solar system and also unravel the mysteries under the sulphuric acid clouds enveloping it. ISRO Chairman S. Somnath said the Venus mission has been conceived and urged scientists to focus on high impact outcomes. PTI

PoK resident repatriated on day of Id-ul-Fitr

SRINAGAR

A resident from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) was repatriated on the occasion of Id in Pir Panjal's Rajouri district, the Army said on Wednesday. Officials said the PoK resident, Mehmmod Hussain from Kotli village, had inadvertently crossed over to the Indian side from Manjakot tehsil on April 28, 2022. The Indian Army contacted the Pakistan Army and shared the details on repatriation "so that he unites with his family on the occasion of Id", officials said.

Minor gang-rape victim raped in police station

LUCKNOW

The family of a 13-year-old girl in Uttar Pradesh's Lalitpur has alleged she was raped by the police station in-charge after she had gone there to register a complaint about a gang rape. Station House Officer (SHO) Tilakdhari Saroj was suspended and named among six accused in the FIR lodged at the Pali station in Bundelkhand district. Teams were formed to arrest the remaining accused, including the SHO, said the police.

PCI condemns assault on journalist in Bhopal

NEW DELHI

The Press Club of India (PCI) on Wednesday condemned the recent attack on Govind Gurjar, a journalist associated with a TV news channel, in Bhopal. Stating that Mr. Gurjar wanted to enter Bansal Hospital to see his relatives, who were admitted in the ICU due to an accident, the PCI said the hospital's staff assaulted him for no reason, due to which he started bleeding.

'Pradeep Sharma is main conspirator in murder'

MUMBAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday opposed "encounter specialist" Pradeep Sharma's bail in the murder of automobile parts dealer Mansukh Hiren, who was linked to a car with explosives found outside industrialist Mukesh Ambani house. The Central agency filed an affidavit before the Bombay High Court and said Mr. Sharma was given ₹45 lakh by the dismissed police officer and co-accused in the case, Sachin Vaze (currently in jail), to kill Mr. Hiren.

BJP to hold high-level meet in Jaipur in May

Poll strategy to be debated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will hold a meeting of its office-bearers in Jaipur on May 20 and 21 to discuss the strategy for States going to the polls this year and the next, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expected to join the proceedings virtually.

Sources said the meeting would be presided over by BJP president J.P. Nadda and all national office-bearers of the party would participate.

State unit chiefs and key organisational leaders will also take part. The BJP's decision to hold the meeting in Congress-ruled Rajasthan is politically significant as the party has been seeking to corner the State government over a host of issues, including recent incidents of communal violence in several places.

The Congress is also holding its "*chintan shivir*" in the State next week.

Rajasthan will go to the polls in the second half of 2023.

The BJP's State units are likely to present a report on their organisational work at the meeting, which is also expected to discuss the political situation, especially in States such as Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka.

While Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh are set for Assembly polls later this year, the Karnataka Assembly election is to be held in the first half of 2023.

Mr. Nadda had held separate meetings last week with core group members of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, which go to the polls together in 2023. For Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the message from the high command is that the principle of collective leadership would be allied, whereas Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has been given some support amid considerable factionalism.

Modi holds bilateral talks with Nordic leaders

Blue economy, clean energy, IT and innovation discussed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COPENHAGEN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday held a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Finland.

Mr. Modi, who arrived at Copenhagen on Tuesday from Berlin on the second leg of his visit to three European nations, met the four Nordic leaders on the sidelines of the second India-Nordic Summit in the Danish capital.

He began his day by meeting Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gahr Store. "Our talks included furthering cooperation in sectors such as the blue economy, clean energy, space, healthcare and more. Norway is a key pillar of India's recently announced Arctic Policy," Mr. Modi tweeted.

Mr. Modi also had a meeting with Swedish counterpart Magdalena Andersson during which they discussed ways to deepen bilateral ties and the progress in the Joint Action Plan. . "We discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in key sectors like security, IT, research and innovation. Strong ties between our nations will benefit our people," Mr. Modi tweeted.

Narendra Modi with, from left, Sanna Marin, Magdalena Andersson, Mette Frederiksen, Jonas Gahr Store and Katrin Jakobsdottir in Copenhagen. • PTI

In a separate meeting, Mr. Modi held talks with Iceland Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir.

Mr. Modi lauded Ms. Jakobsdottir's personal efforts at promoting gender equality and briefed her on India's advances on the issue, the External Affairs Ministry said.

Mr. Modi also met his Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin and discussed ways to further cement bilateral ties in trade, investment, technology, culture and other sectors.

We can contribute to global prosperity: PM

Traditional gifts given to dignitaries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COPENHAGEN

Items reflecting India's rich and diverse heritage and showcasing distinctive traditions of its various regions were chosen by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his gifts to various dignitaries from Nordic nations whom he met during his three-day tour.

"The India-Nordic Summit will go a long way in boosting India's ties with the region. Together, there is much that our nations can achieve and contribute to global prosperity and sustainable development," Mr. Modi tweeted.

Handicraft souvenirs

Official sources said Mr. Modi gifted a *rogan* painting, an art of cloth printing practised in Gujarat's Kutch, to Danish queen Margrethe; a silver *meenakari* bird figure from Banaras to Crown Princess Mary; and a brass tree of life from Rajasthan to his Finnish counterpart.

He presented a *dhaal* with *koftgiri* art from Rajasthan, and a wall-hanging with Kutch embroidery to the Prime Ministers of Norway and Denmark, respectively, while giving a *pashmina* stole in a papier mache box from Jammu & Kashmir to his Swedish counterpart.

Mr. Modi PM gifted a *dhokra* boat from Chhattisgarh to Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark, sources said, noting these products are in great demand in domestic and foreign markets because of their simplicity and enchanting folk motifs. Dhokra is a non-ferrous metal casting craft using the lost-wax casting technique, something in use in India for over 4,000 years.

Modi, Macron meet amid Ukraine crisis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met French President Emmanuel Macron here on Wednesday and discussed issues of bilateral and mutual interest as well as regional and global developments, amid Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

"This meeting will add momentum to the India-France friendship," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted.

Mr. Macron held a tete-a-tete with Mr. Modi before the delegation-level talks at the Elysee Palace.

"A meeting between two friends. An opportunity to translate the renewed mandate of President @EmmanuelMacron into a renewed momentum for the India-France Strategic partnership," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

MNS stir has harmed Hindu temples: Raut

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Slamming the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) over its rhetoric on loudspeakers in mosques, the Shiv Sena on Wednesday said that the move has harmed Hindu temples and it was a 'black day' for Hindus.

"Hundreds of Hindu temples perform the first prayer in the wee hours. People who cannot go to the temple at those hours depend on loudspeakers in rural parts of the State and even in big religious places like Shirdi. Today, due to the theatrics of MNS, those loudspeakers too had to be stopped. This is a black day for Hindus, thanks to BJP and MNS," said Sena leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut.

Mr. Raut said that the party and even the Chief Minister's office have been receiving hundreds of complaints from Hindu temples due to the MNS agitation. "Bharatiya Janata Party and its minions can't tolerate peace. And now their actions have backfired on Hindus," said Mr Raut.

Following the threat by MNS of playing *Hanuman Chalisa* in front of mosques if they used loudspeakers for *azan*, regulations have been brought on the use of loudspeakers.

SC is loud and clear on noise pollution

It interferes with right to life: court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court judgments which govern the use of loudspeakers were intended to protect citizens from becoming "forced audience" to noise.

Recent days have seen tensions rise over the use of loudspeakers in temples and mosques.

However, the court, while interpreting the law on the use of loudspeakers in 2005, had made it clear that it was not concerned with "any religion or religious practices".

Legal principle

The court had made it clear that its judgments regulating the use of loudspeakers and timings were based on the legal principle that "freedom from noise pollution is a part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution".

"Noise interferes with the fundamental right of citizens to live in peace and to protect themselves against forced audience... We are not concerned with any religion or religious practices; we are concerned only with the fundamental right of the citizens and the people to protect themselves against noise pollution and forced audiences," the court had made its intentions clear in its 2005 judgments. The top court had made it clear that nobody, whatever be the religion or purpose, "can claim a right to create noise even in his own premises which would travel beyond his precincts and cause nuisance to neighbours or others".

"No one can claim a fundamental right to create noise by amplifying the sound of his speech with the help of loudspeakers," the court explained.

'Not a must'

On the use of loudspeakers in religious practices, the top court, in one of the judgments, reproduced parts of a newspaper column which said the objective of any religion was not to force anyone to listen to its expressions of faith. The court had said the logic that loudspeakers were not a must to spread religious devotion appealed to it.

Ranas get bail in Hanuman Chalisa row

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Mumbai City Civil and Sessions Court on Wednesday granted bail to Independent MP Navneet Kaur Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana in connection with the Hanuman Chalisa controversy.

Special judge R.N. Rokade granted bail to the couple on a bond of ₹50,000 and directed them not to speak to the media about the case.

The two were arrested by the Mumbai police on April 23 for declaring that they would recite Hanuman Chalisa outside 'Matoshree', Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's residence.

They withdrew the plan because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit and were sent to judicial custody by the Magistrate Court for 14 days on April 24.

'NCM won't interfere in demolitions'

Minorities panel chairperson says it is is not possible to support encroachment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Minorities would not interfere with the demolitions in Delhi, its Chairperson, Iqbal Singh Lalpura, said at a press conference.

Mr. Lalpura stated that the commission would not interfere in the due process of law.

Iqbal Singh Lalpura

"Demolition is a process to create a new thing and to improve the existing infrastructure by removing illegal encroachment. We can't support any illegal acts," he said. But he noted that the Indian law did not use demolition as a punishment. He was answering a question on an anticipated demolition drive in several parts of south Delhi, including Shaheen Bagh, which was the site of anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests.

Mr. Lalpura was also asked about statements given by the Uttarakhand government on bringing about a uniform civil code and other BJP-led State governments saying they would be examining it.

"If a person is murdered, then the case is registered under IPC 302, no matter which religion the victim or the accused belongs to. Now as far as a uniform civil code is concerned, there is no draft in front of the commission for consideration, we shall take a call when we get the draft," he said.

The commission would intervene only if the draft uniform civil code interferes with religion in any way.

Mr. Lalpura also said that the commission had got many complaints from Punjab on forcible conversion, especially in the border-villages.

The commission had asked for a report from the Chief Secretary more than four months back, but so far the State had not replied. "Everyone has freedom of religion, but conversions should not be under influence of any fear or favour. The complaints we have suggest otherwise," Mr. Lalpura added.

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
Battery Operated three wheeler vehicle
GEM ID:GEM/2022/B/2131866 dtd 25.04.22
Last Date of Bid Submission: 09.06.2022, 20:00 hrs
https://gem.gov.in/
Tender documents can be downloaded from https://gem.gov.in/ & https://kochimetro.org/tenders
Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on websites

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AN ISO 9001:2015 INSTITUTION
MANOVIKAS NAGAR, SECUNDERABAD – 500 009
Website:www.nimhindia.nic.in Tel.No.27751741-745 Fax No.040-27750198
WALK-IN-INTERVIEWS FOR EMPANELMENT OF GUEST FACULTY/ STAFF POSITIONS
Walk-in-interviews/screening for empanelment of professionals/ personnel to work as guest faculty/staff for NIEPID Secunderabad and its Regional Centres located at Noida, Navi Mumbai, Kolkata & MSEC, Noida will be held as per the details given below:
Various positions/levels for which empanelment is being made:
Guest faculties in the levels of Assistant Professor/Lecturer in the fields of Special Education, Medical, Rehabilitation Psychology, Physiotherapy, etc.,
Guest staff in the levels of Vocational Instructor, Rehabilitation Therapist, Pharmacist, Special Educator, Dance Teacher, Music Teacher, Yoga Teacher, Physical Education/Sports Teacher, Assistant Librarian, Database/Network Administrator, etc.,
Research staff in the levels of Research Officer/Assistant Research Officer/Projects Assistant in various Research & Development Projects.
Walk-in-interviews/Screening schedule:

Sl.No.	Name of the centre	Dates
1.	NIEPID Hqs., Secunderabad.	9th and 10th May, 2022
2.	NIEPID RC Kolkata	17th and 18th May, 2022
3.	NIEPID RC Navi Mumbai	19th and 20th May, 2022
4.	NIEPID Noida (including MSEC)	30th and 31st May, 2022

For complete details about the qualifications, experience, remuneration, terms & conditions and to download application forms, please visit Institute's website www.niepid.nic.in. For any other information, please contact at Ph.No.040-27751741-45 Extn. 209.
DIRECTOR(OFFG.)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Bommanahalli) BBMP Office CMC Building, Beguru Road, Bommanahalli Zone, Bengaluru - 560 068
No: SADH/TENDER/PR/01/2022-23 Dated: 04.05.2022
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Bommanahalli), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/ Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works/Category	Estimated Amount (in ₹.)	EMD 2% (in ₹.)
1	Landscape development of Agara Lake Ward No-174 HSR Layout in Bommanahalli Zone (Others)	95,00,000/-	1,90,000/-
2	Landscape development of Dodda -kallasandra Lake in Ward No-184 Uttarahalli in Bommanahalli Zone (Others)	1,00,00,000/-	2,00,000/-
3	Landscape development of Ibbaluru Lake and Drilling of New Borewell in Ward No-174 HSR Layout in Bommanahalli Zone (Others)	1,00,00,000/-	2,00,000/-
4	Landscape development of Magekere Lake and Drilling of New Borewell in Ward No-184 Uttarahalli in Bommanahalli Zone (Others)	98,00,000/-	1,96,000/-
5	Landscape development of Chunchunghatta Lake in Ward No-195 Konanakunte in Bommanahalli Zone (Others)	60,00,000/-	1,20,000/-
6	Landscape development of Gubbalala Lake in Ward No-184 Uttarahalli in Bommanahalli Zone (Others)	50,00,000/-	1,00,000/-
7	Development of Yelenahalli Lake in Ward No-192 Beguru in Bommanahalli Zone (Others)	50,00,000/-	1,00,000/-
8	Landscape development of Sarakki Lake in Ward No-187 in Bommanahalli Zone (Others)	50,00,000/-	1,00,000/-
9	Landscape development of Kothanuru Lake in Ward No-194 in Bommanahalli Zone (Others)	50,00,000/-	1,00,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Notification is **04.05.2022.** (2) Tender can be downloaded from **09.05.2022.** (3) Tender Closing date **21.05.2022** at **5:00** pm. (4) Technical Bid Opening Date: **24.05.2022.** (5) Financially Bid Opening Date **Intimated Later.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Bommanahalli)
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION)
Ernakulam Junction
TENDER NOTICE NO. DCE-II-ERS-OT-01-2022 dt.29-04-2022
Name of Work: Shoranur-Ernakulam Section - Proposed construction of ROB inlieu of LC No.56 at km 70/300-400 as 1X30.00.001 m SK (21.214m SQ) span composite girder super structure between Chalakudi and Karukutty stations (Chirangara). **Tender Value:** 246.45 lakhs, **Completion period:** 6 Months, **Date of opening:** 25/05/2022 @ 15.00 hrs. Completion details & tender document will be available at https://www.ireps.gov.in
Dy.Chief Engineer, Construction/II, Ernakulam
Follow us on twitter.com/GMSRailway

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
e-mail ID - supenger_rbjyp@yahoo.co.in Phone No-06854-231528
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.J.C (R&B) - 03/2022-23
No. 1874 Date. 30.04.2022

1. Nature of the work:	ROAD & BUILDING WORKS
2. Total No. of Works:	04 (Four) Nos.
3. Estimated cost:	Rs.123.67 Lakhs to 203.39 Lakhs As per works.
4. Period of completion:	04 (Four) Months to 08(Eight) Months as per work.
5. Cost of Bid Document:	Rs. 10,000/- Each.
6. Bid Security (EMD):	Bid Security Declaration (Schedule-K)
7. Class of Contractor:	"B" & "A" Class
8. Date & time of availability of bid Document in the portal:	From 10.00 hours of 11.05.2022 to 17.00 hours of 25.05.2022
9. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal:	17.00 hours of 25.05.2022
10. Opening date of Bid:	10.00 hours of 26.05.2022
11. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid:	Chief Construction Engineer Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.
Sd/-
Cheif Construction Engineer Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore
B-130 OIPR-34108/11/0004/2223

PURABI DAIRY
West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd. (WAMUL)
World Bank Financed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)
Ref No. MD/PC/APART/E-Tender/202-23/01 Dated: 5th May, 2022
E-procurement Tender Notice
The West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL) is an implementing agency of World Bank Financed (APART) Project and now intends to purchase the following item from the eligible bidder as mentioned below:

Sl. No	Category	Date of publishing tender	Last date of submission of Quotations
1	Automatic Milk Collection Systems (AMCSs)	07-05-2022	07-06-2022

The details of the E-tender will be published and available at www.assamtenders.gov.in as mentioned above. If any corrigendum will be issued, it will be published in www.assamtenders.gov.in on or before last date and timing for submission of bid. No separate notification for publication of corrigendum or extension of last date of submission of bid will be made through Newspaper advertisement.
Sd/- Managing Director

Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar
E-PROCUREMENT MODE
30 Days Tender Notification
No. R/KVAFSU/eproc.76/G&S/2021-22 Dt.: 31.03.2022
KVAFSU Bidar invites bids through e-procurement in 2 covers system for Supply of **equipments related works** for IAH&VB, Bengaluru and College of Fisheries, Mangaluru from Tenderers registered in e-procurement cell of Government of Karnataka, Total cost of the tendered amount is **Rs. 134.90 Lakhs**.
The detailed notification of tender can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **02.05.2022**. The last date for uploading tender documents is **31.05.2022** up to **5:00 PM**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Er. Ramappa. H. Korawar, Estate Officer(I/c), KVAFSU, Bidar-585226. Ph.: 9483969344
DIPR/CPLC/368/2022-23
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Ballari Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT12275 Date:02.05.2022
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)
Tenders are invited through e-procutement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for **"Manual unloading / clearing of coal from the loaded wagons on track hopper and clearing of lumps, collection and shifting of stones to designated area near track hopper at coal handling plant - BTPS.".** Total Tender Amount : **Rs. 49,19,349/-** EMD : **Rs. 98,400/-** Pre-bid Meeting : **07.05.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.** Last date and time for submission of bids: **10.05.2022 upto 17:00 hrs**. Opening of Technical Bids : **11.05.2022 at 17:05 hrs**. Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-1,** BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583 152. Ballari Dist. Mob: +919448290756.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Through e-procurement)
BESCOM invites tender against enquiry No: **BESCOM/GM-DAS/CS-Accessories/22-23/03** for Supply and Installation of Communication Antenna and support accessories.
Date of Availability of Bid documents: **06.05.2022, 15:00 Hrs onwards.** Last date for submission of queries: **12.05.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Date of Pre-bid meeting: **16.05.2022, at 11:00 Hrs.**Last date for submission of Bids: **25.05.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Date of opening of Technical Bid: **27.05.2022, 16:00 Hrs onwards.** Date of opening of Price Bid: **Will be opened after the completion of technical evaluation.**
The bid documents can be obtained through e-procurement portal from the website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** e-procurement helpdesk: **+91 80 46010000, +91 8022631200** or e-mail: **support@ihelpdesk.com.**
Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
I/c General Manager (DAS) BESCOM

COVID pandemic not over, caution is vital: Paul

NITI Aayog member says virus is continuously changing shape; country currently has good vaccine coverage

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

"The COVID-19 pandemic is not over and the virus is constantly changing shape. We are witnessing an uptick in some pockets of the country," V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, has cautioned.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said the country currently had good vaccine coverage and an extensive network of labs keeping a close watch on any dangerous mutations and trends.

"We definitely have the situation under control right now but care and caution is vital," Dr. Paul said a day after the Indian SARS-CoV2 Genomics Sequencing Consortium (INSACOG) confirmed the country's first case of Omicron sub-variant XE in India.

Fully functional

The Health Ministry has dismissed any reason for concern at present.

"All activities, including school education, should remain open and fully functional. We have to learn to live with the awareness that this virus [SARS-CoV-2] is here and that it is a dynamic entity," Dr. Paul said. He advised people to follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour strictly, get vaccinated and get the precautionary dose when due.

> All activities, including school education, should remain open and fully functional. We have to learn to live with the awareness that this virus [COVID-19] is here and that it is a dynamic entity
>
> V.K. PAUL
> NITI Aayog member

Meanwhile, the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) held a meeting on Wednesday to review the data regarding COVID-19 vaccines for the five-12 age group.

"The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation meeting remained inconclusive as no decision was taken on both the issues of dose gap and about vaccination for the age group of five-12 years," a senior official said. On April 29, vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech submitted an application to the Drugs Controller General of India seeking permission to conduct phase 2 and 3 trials to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of Covaxin as a booster dose in healthy volunteers aged two to 18. The study is likely to be conducted at six sites, including the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences in Delhi and Patna.

At present, a precautionary dose of Covaxin or Covishield is administered to all those aged 18 and above who have completed nine months after the second dose.

India began administering precaution doses to the healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities on January 10.

'Special focus on India at Cannes Film Festival'

Spotlight on our culture, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Anurag Thakur, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, on Wednesday said India had been chosen as the first Country of Honour at the upcoming Marche' Du Film, organised alongside the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival, in France.

R. Madhavan

The Minister said: "It is the first time the Marché du Film has an official Country of Honour, and this special focus will continue annually with different nations in the spotlight at future editions."

Another highlight for India at this edition of Cannes Film Festival would be the world premiere of the movie *Rocketry* produced by actor R. Madhavan.

It would be showcased at the Palais des Festivals of the market screening on May 19.

Diplomatic ties

Mr. Thakur said given that it was the 75 years of diplomatic ties between India and France, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris and his meeting with President Emmanuel Macron had special significance.

He said the Country of Honour status ensured India's presence as a "focus country" at the opening night of Marche' Du Films being organised on the Majestic Beach with the spotlight on India, its cinema, culture and heritage.

Adding an Indian flavour to the night would be special performances by Indian choir bands along with folk music and fireworks. Both Indian and French cuisine will be served at the event.

The Minister said India was also a Country of Honour at Cannes Next in which five new start-ups would be given an opportunity to pitch to the audio-visual industry. Ten professionals would participate at the Animation Day in Cannes networking event.

India will also pitch five select movies at the "Goes to Cannes Section", which are part of the Work In Progress lab under the Film Bazaar. They include *Baghjan* by Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia (Assamese, Moran); *Bailadila* by Shailendra Sahu (Hindi, Chhattisgarhi); *Ek Jagah Apni* (A Space of Our Own) by Ektara Collective (Hindi); *Follower* by Harshad Nalawade (Marathi, Kannada, Hindi); and *Shivamma* by Jai Shankar (Kannada).

One-hour conference

Mr. Thakur said a dedicated one-hour conference would be organised at the main stage, comprising leaders of the entertainment sector and would position 'India as the content hub of the World'.

'Star rating for food may mislead buyers'

Experts call for warning label system

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The nutrition labelling system for food packets recommended by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will not only fail to enable consumers to make healthy choices but also mislead them about their nutritional value, warn experts who have called for the need to "insulate" policy-making from the influence of the food industry.

At a meeting in February, the FSSAI decided that when preparing the draft regulations for a Front of Package Labelling (FoPL) system, it will propose the health star rating system, which rates the overall nutritional profile of packaged food and assigns it a rating from half a star to five stars. The decision was based on an Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad study commissioned by the FSSAI. The move has upset public health experts who favour the warning label system such as a black-and-white stop symbol used in Chile or the red warning symbol in Israel for each of the three ingredients – salt, sugar and fat.

> Educational component of a properly constructed warning system is missing in the health star system
>
> K. SRINATH REDDY
> PHFI president

Warning system

"Warning signs educate consumers about harmful ingredients present in a food product and help them make healthy choices. They also give a repetitive educational message so that even for domestic cooking or buying street food that warning bell goes off. This educational component of a properly constructed warning system is missing in the health star [rating] system, which are like a movie rating system and are of no use," K. Srinath Reddy, president, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), said at a press conference.

He said that the system being proposed by the food regulator was "devious" as it misled consumers about a product's nutrition profile.

Under the health star rating system, an algorithm assigns a product a certain number of stars based on "positive" components (fibre, protein, and fruit, vegetable, nut and legume content) balanced against other components (energy, sugars, sodium, and saturated fat). He was launching a position statement endorsed by 21 organisations, including the Centre for Science and Environment, Consumer Voice, Cuts International, Indian Academy of Paediatrics, and the PHFI.

In the statement, the 21 organisations have demanded that warning labels should be made mandatory when the draft regulation is made public for stakeholder consultations; that "decisions on public health issues should be made without any conflicts of interest even at a consultative level"; and that while interactions with the food industry may happen on different platforms, they should not be part of meetings on policy decisions.

In the February meeting, of the 26 external participants, 17 were from the industry, including Dabur, Nestle, Hindustan Unilever and PepsiCo.

Highest sex ratio at birth in Ladakh

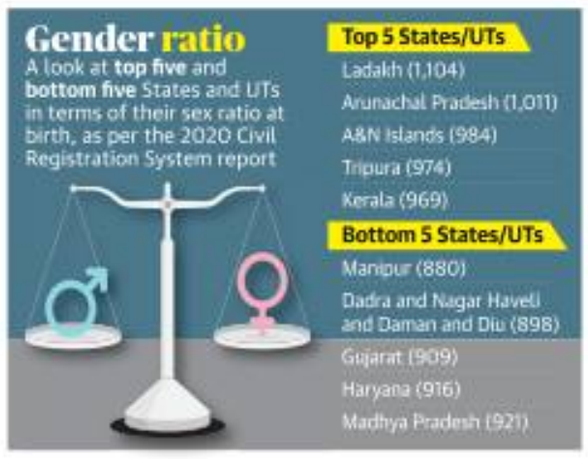
Manipur has lowest followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu in 2020

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Ladakh recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala, according to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on 2020 Civil Registration System report.

"Highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) based on registered events has been reported by Ladakh (1,104) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (1,011), A&N Islands (984), Tripura (974), and Kerala (969)," the report released by the Registrar-General of India on Tuesday said. Sex ratio at birth is the number of females per thousand males.

The lowest sex ratio was reported by Manipur (880), followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (898), Gujarat (909), Haryana (916) and Madhya Pradesh (921).


Gender ratio
A look at top five and bottom five States and UTs in terms of their sex ratio at birth, as per the 2020 Civil Registration System report
Top 5 States/UTs
Ladakh (1,104)
Arunachal Pradesh (1,011)
A&N Islands (984)
Tripura (974)
Kerala (969)
Bottom 5 States/UTs
Manipur (880)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (898)
Gujarat (909)
Haryana (916)
Madhya Pradesh (921)

2019 data

In 2019, the highest sex ratio at birth was reported by Arunachal Pradesh (1,024), followed by Nagaland (1,001), Mizoram (975) and A&N Islands (965), and the lowest sex ratio was reported by Gujarat (901), Assam (903), Madhya Pradesh (905) and Jammu & Kashmir (909).

The report said that the requisite information from Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi on sex ratio was "not available." They had not provided the said data in 2019 as well.

"The sex ratio at birth of registered events is an important indicator to map the sex differential of the population at the beginning of their life. The sex ratio at birth has been calculated after deducting the delayed registration of more than one year for the year 2020," the report said. None of the States or UTs have recorded sex ratio at birth below 880.

The report noted that 1,43,379 infant deaths were registered in 2020 and the share of rural areas was only 23.4%, while that of urban areas was 76.6% in total registered infant deaths. "Non-registration of infant deaths in rural areas was a cause of concern," it stated.

Haflong Hindi, a fluent example of give and take

Of 19th century vintage, the pidgin follows Tibeto-Burman grammar and includes Bengali, Nepali words

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

A "nativised" Hindi associated with Assam's only hill station is trying to hold its own amid a row over the Centre's move to make Hindi compulsory in high schools across Northeast India.

Hindi reached Dima Hasao, a district formerly called North Cachar Hills, in the late 1800s primarily through merchants and construction workers who worked on a mountain railway system. By the time the railway line was completed in 1899, the non-tribal settlers and diverse indigenous communities across the hills had developed a pidgin to communicate among themselves.

It came to be known as Haflong Hindi, named after the headquarters of the district where the Dimasa people are the dominant community. The other tribes are Hmar, Kuki, Zeme (Naga), Biate, Vaiphei, Hrangkhol, Khelma, Rongmei, Karbi and Jaintia.

"Haflong Hindi follows the Tibeto-Burman grammar, not the Hindi grammar, and has lexical additions from Nepali and Bengali. It has a generic plural marker and does not use numbers as in Hindi," Monali Longmailai, who teaches linguistics at Assam University in Silchar, told *The Hindu*.

For instance, the plural of *ladki* (girl) in Haflong Hindi is *ladkiluk* or *ladkilukun* and not *ladkiyaan* (girls) as in "mainland" Hindi. Likewise, a tree in Haflong Hindi is *gachchhi* borrowed from Nepali and not *ped* as in Hindi, while most sound changes follow the Bengali form, she explained.

ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

"The problem now is that with so much of migration and immigration, the younger generation of locals and Hindi-speakers from outside are mixing it up. They assume it is a wrong form of Hindi and needs to be corrected," Ms. Longmailai said.

Though Haflong Hindi has not found its way into literature, she has been researching on a project to be published.

More than four decades ago, a Hindi teacher named Somnath Upadhyaya had attempted a Haflong Hindi dictionary that is no longer in circulation. Educationist Vanlal Bapui had brought out a Haflong Hindi primer for the Education Department of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) in the early 1990s, but it was shelved. NCHAC chief Debolal Gorlosa declined to comment on the status of the primer.

Some linguists feel pushing the standardised Hindi as a compulsory subject in school could affect the "earthiness" of variants in the Northeast such as Shillong Hindi, which is not pidgin but informal Hindi, and the "purer" Arunachalee Hindi with tribal intonations.

"The urge to correct or find fault with the local Hindi is like tutoring a Naga person to speak more of Assamese than Nagamese," Ms. Longmailai said.

CRPF opens 20 camps in Maoist areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has opened 20 new security camps in States affected by Left-wing extremism in the past six months, according to a senior CRPF official.

Eight such camps have been operationalised in Chattisgarh, four each in Jharkhand and Odisha, one each in Maharashtra and Bihar and two in Telangana. After the April 3, 2021 incident where 22 security personnel were killed in a Maoist ambush in Sukma of Chattisgarh, Home Minister Amit Shah had said more security camps would be established in the affected areas.

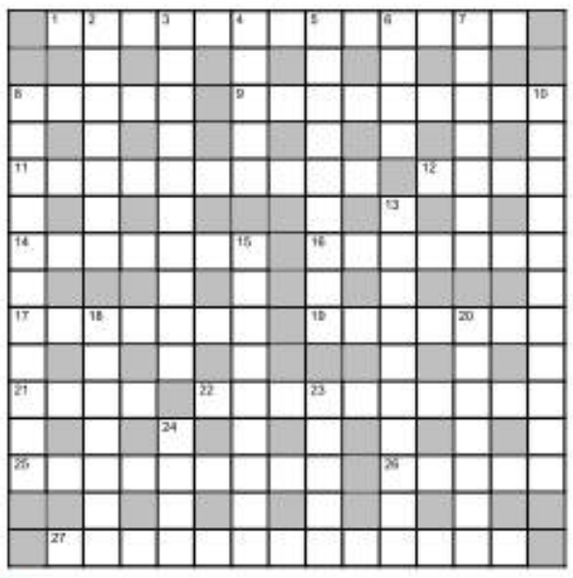
The camps or forward operating bases help in area domination, and security operations can be launched faster.

TH CROSSWORD + 13548

(set by Dr. X)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Excited as dolphins go round gulf showing extreme smartness (4,3,6)
8 Cocaine found in largely dirty boat (5)
9 Halt to check solitary vehicle leaving a plant (9)
11 Head of psychiatry, enthralled by exotic ward nurse in secret (5,5)
12 Almost bare, showing heavenly body (4)
14 Nick's son runs into difficulty (7)
16 Dessert in container, primarily nutritious and oil-free (7)
17 Sing after drinking one primarily intoxicating wine (7)
19 Pouring out small measure of spirits after securing victory (7)
21 Loses head, pushes referees briefly (4)
22 What curator at cricket stadium will do to bid for contract? (4,1,5)
25 Urinal with tap flowing, getting waterproof sheet (9)
26 Restriction to go topless around zone in Turkish city (5)
27 Woe as disc ruptured – compelled to tackle beastly problem (3,3,7)

DOWN

2 Strip down after finishing off a lap dance (7)
3 Suffering in latrine, got sick (10)
4 Dark film genre involves savagery primarily? Certainly not (2,3)
5 Probabilities in favour of splinter groups acquiring power (9)
6 Covers large picture in retreat (4)
7 Mammals turned up to eat meat finally in last passage (7)
8 So curt about crushing defeat in sporting venue (6,5)
10 Trendy girl in scenes, torrid, getting final critical remark (7,4)
13 Drive by river lined by swaying pine trees (10)
15 Hate liar's crafty wife becoming legal successor (4-2-3)
18 A rapist's beaten up in Turkish city (7)
20 Lies like this, cuddling maiden's neck (7)
23 Rotten nuisance contributing to lassitude (5)
24 Crowd knocked back brandy made from refuse of grapes (4)

SUDOKU

		4	7	3				2
3	5		2			8	6	
		8			2		7	9
4								1
7	3		6			2		
	8	2			6		1	3
1				5	7	9		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13547

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	9	1	3	8	7	6	2
8	3	2	6	5	7	1	9	4
1	6	7	4	2	9	5	8	3
7	5	4	2	8	6	3	1	9
9	8	6	3	7	1	4	2	5
3	2	1	9	4	5	6	7	8
4	9	3	7	1	2	8	5	6
6	1	8	5	9	4	2	3	7
2	7	5	8	6	3	9	4	1

FAITH

Practical philosopher

How should a rich man save his wealth for the future? Thiruvalluvar had the answer. He said that providing food to the hungry ensured one's future welfare. That was a rich man's guarantee for the future. It is easy to discuss Vedanta when our needs on this earth have been met. But when one is starving, it is impossible to think of God, or to indulge in any spiritual seeking. Hunger drives out all other thoughts from our mind. We can think of nothing but food. Everything else has to wait until we have eaten.

Vallalar, whose mission was to spread good values, knew that the need for food must first be met before people would seek spirituality. Vallalar was practical in his philosophical approach to life, said Malayaman in a discourse. He, therefore, established a scheme to provide food free of cost. He established the Satya Dharma Salai, in Vadalur, for this purpose. Here, even today, food is provided to everyone, without caste distinctions.

Vallalar said Lord Siva danced in the hearts of those who treated all living things alike. Such a pure heart was a much sought after abode as far as God was concerned. Vallalar advised against a man remarrying upon the death of his wife. Vallalar spoke against the subjugation of women. He said that a woman should not be made to remove her mangalsutra when her husband died.

He was sorry that while many toiled in the fields, the land was owned by a few. He believed that wealth should not be concentrated in the hands of a few. At the same time, he also said that we should never desire what belongs to another. He described the natural wealth of the Tamil region. It had water bodies; it received copious rains; it had fertile lands; and it was equally rich in intelligence and good conduct.

Not storming Mariupol mill, says Russia

But Russian forces pound targets across Ukraine, taking aim at supply lines for foreign weapons

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Wednesday denied Russia was storming the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, after Ukraine accused Moscow of launching a "powerful" assault on the industrial zone where Kyiv's forces are holed up.

"The order was publicly given by the supreme commander-in-chief to call off the assault," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, referring to an order given by President Vladimir Putin last month not to pursue an attack on the area.

"There is no storming," Mr. Peskov said.

He said that there are instances of "exacerbation" at the site when Ukrainian "militants take up firing positions". "These attempts are suppressed very quickly," Mr. Peskov said.

The Ukrainian military said on Tuesday that Russian forces had launched an offensive on the besieged Azovstal steel plant after some 100 civilians were evacuated from the tunnels beneath the steelworks.

Broken nests: Destroyed residential buildings in the southern port city of Mariupol. •REUTERS

Flurry of attacks

Meanwhile, complaining that the West is "stuffing Ukraine with weapons", Russia on Wednesday bombarded rail stations and other supply-line points across the country. The Russian military said it used sea- and air-launched missiles to destroy electric power facilities at five railway stations across Ukraine, while artillery and aircraft also struck troop strongholds and fuel and ammunition depots.

Air raid sirens sounded in cities across the country on Wednesday night, and missile fire followed in Cherkasy and Dnipro in central Ukraine and Zaporizhzhia in the southeast. In Dnipro, the Mayor said one strike hit the city's centre. There was no immediate word on casualties or damage. The flurry of attacks comes as Russia prepares to celebrate Victory Day on May 9, marking the Soviet Union's defeat of Nazi Germany.

The world is watching for whether Mr. Putin will use the occasion to declare a victory or expand what he calls a "special military operation".

Mr. Peskov dismissed the speculation as "nonsense".

(With AP inputs)

Orthodox Church head faces sanctions

REUTERS
BRUSSELS

The European Commission has proposed freezing the assets of Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, a diplomat said on Wednesday.

The Patriarch has been added to a draft blacklist that includes military officers and businessmen close to the Kremlin. The sanction, which would entail an asset freeze and a travel ban, needs the backing of EU states to be adopted.

Earlier in the day, the Russian Orthodox Church scolded Pope Francis after he urged the Patriarch not to become the Kremlin's "altar boy", telling the Vatican that such remarks would hurt dialogue between the churches.

Sri Lanka's usable reserves are negligible: Finance Minister

Aid from IMF might take up to 6 months to come through

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's usable foreign reserves are down to $50 million, as the cash-strapped island awaits assistance from the International Monetary Fund, which might take up to six months to come through, Finance Minister Ali Sabry said on Wednesday.

Ali Sabry

Delivering his first special statement in Parliament as Finance Minister, Mr. Sabry said: "Our liquid reserves, or usable reserves, are less than $50 million," in the government's latest admission of the dire situation of the Sri Lankan economy witnessing its worst downturn since Independence in 1948.

The available reserves amount to a fourth of Sri Lanka's monthly requirement for essential imports. "As of now, the usable liquid reserves are at negligible levels, severely impacting importation of essentials, including fuel, LP gas and pharmaceuticals," the Minister told Parliament, adding: "I would not hesitate to inform this august Assembly that the government is struggling to find enough foreign exchange to finance these essential imports."

Admitting to the effect of the Rajapaksa government's policy choices, especially the wide tax cuts in 2019, the Minister said the revenue loss due to the move amounted to LKR 500 billion (roughly $1.4 billion). There are no "painless solutions" to the crisis, he added.

"It is time for Sri Lanka to establish a broad political consensus on the economic path forward for the country," he said, even as his government faces harsh public criticism, seen in unceasing street protests.

Downward spiral

While Sri Lanka's crisis has persisted for at least two years, the economy's downward spiral accelerated this year. Agitating citizens are calling for the resignation of the ruling Rajapaksa brothers, who they hold responsible for the meltdown.

There are no signs of recovery yet. In fact, key foreign exchange-earning sectors such as tourism and exports are flagging a sharp decline in recent months. The country's crucial tea industry has reported a sharp drop in exports, its lowest in 23 years, according to official figures.

The widely criticised ban on chemical fertilizers and the impact of Russia's war on Ukraine have contributed to the slash in exports, according to industry representatives.

Official data showed that tea exports in the first quarter of 2022 plunged to 63.7 million kilos, down from 69.8 million kilos during the same period last year. Tourist arrivals fell by nearly half in April, authorities said, as Sri Lanka scrambles for dollars to import essentials, and citizens struggle to cope with soaring prices in the domestic market.

Meanwhile, a political deadlock continues, with both President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa refusing to step down, despite mounting calls from citizens, including owners of large business houses, professionals, artistes, students and worker unions.

The main Opposition party in Parliament Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) handed over two no-confidence motions, one against the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP)-led government and another against Mr. Gotabaya on Tuesday.

EU proposes phased Russian oil embargo, more sanctions

REUTERS
ZAPORIZHZHIA

The European Union proposed its toughest sanctions yet against Russia on Wednesday, including a phased oil embargo, as Ukraine came under further heavy Russian bombardment and nervously monitored large-scale Army drills in neighbouring Belarus, a close Moscow ally.

Piling pressure on Russia's already battered $1.8 trillion economy, the European Commission proposed phasing out supplies of Russian crude oil within six months and refined products by the end of 2022. The plan, if agreed by EU governments, would be a watershed for the world's largest trading bloc, which remains dependent on Russian energy and must find alternative supplies. Hungary and Slovakia want to be exempted from the ban for now, sources said.

"(President Vladimir) Putin must pay a price, a high price,for his brutal aggression," Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen told the European Parliament in Strasbourg, to applause from lawmakers.

Ms. der Leyen also announced sanctions targeting Russia's largest bank Sberbank, two other lenders, three state broadcasters and Army officers and other individuals accused of war crimes.

The EU has yet to target Russian natural gas, used to heat homes and generate electricity across the bloc.

Junta court rejects Suu Kyi graft appeal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YANGON

A Myanmar junta court on Wednesday rejected an appeal by ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi against a five-year sentence for corruption handed down last week, a junta spokesman said.

Since a coup ousted her government in February last year, plunging Myanmar into upheaval, Ms. Suu Kyi has been in military custody and faces a raft of charges that could jail her for more than 150 years.

Last week the Nobel laureate was convicted of accepting a bribe of $600,000 cash and gold bars – a charge she said was "absurd".

The junta's "Union Supreme Court rejected the appeal of her sentence," junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun said. Ms. Suu Kyi will challenge the latest decision in a higher court, a source said.

In latest show of force, North Korea fires ballistic missile

Pyongyang has conducted 14 weapons tests so far this year

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

North Korea fired a ballistic missile on Wednesday, Seoul said, a week after Kim Jong-un vowed to boost Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal and just days before the South inaugurates a new, hawkish President.

Pyongyang has conducted 14 weapons tests since January, including firing an intercontinental ballistic missile at full range for the first time since 2017.

Last week Mr. Kim oversaw a huge military parade, vowed to rapidly expand and improve his nuclear arsenal, and warned of possible "pre-emptive" strikes – as satellite imagery indicates he may soon resume nuclear testing.

The Wednesday test comes days before the May 10 inauguration of South Korea's President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol, who has vowed to take a hard line with North Korea and ramp-up security cooperation with the U.S. after years of failed diplomacy.

Alarm bell: People watching news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, in Seoul on Wednesday. •AFP

North Korea fired the ballistic missile at 12.03 p.m., Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, likely from the Sunan Airfield near Pyongyang, the site of previous recent ICBM tests.

The missile flew 470 km and reached an altitude of 780 km, the JCS said, adding it was a "blatant violation of UN Security Council resolutions".

Japan PM, Pope discuss nuclear arms

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ROME

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met Pope Francis and top Vatican officials in talks on Wednesday about the need for "a world free of nuclear weapons", the Vatican said.

The meeting came as nuclear-armed Russia pressed its war in Ukraine and after North Korea launched a ballistic missile toward its eastern waters and vowed to speed up the development of its own nuclear arsenal.

Mr. Kishida and the Pope spoke privately for about 25 minutes.

In a statement, the Vatican said the talks touched on bilateral and international relations "with particular attention to the war in Ukraine, stressing the urgency of dialogue and peace and expressing the hope, to this end, for a world free of nuclear weapons".

Beijing extends COVID curbs, closes dozens of subway stations

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

Beijing closed dozens of subway stations and expanded COVID-19 restrictions on Wednesday, constricting movement around the Chinese capital despite logging only dozens of daily cases.

China has been battling its worst coronavirus flare-up since the early days of the pandemic, with most cases found in the business hub of Shanghai.

People alarmed

Scenes of chaos and anger at weeks of stay-at-home orders in Shanghai have alarmed people in the capital, who fear their city may be next.

On Wednesday Beijing reported 51 local infections, five of them asymptomatic, while Shanghai reported nearly 5,000 – part of a downward trend as the hub loosens some restrictions.

But municipal government spokesman Xu Hejian told reporters on Wednesday that the capital would "temporarily extend" its tightened COVID-19 curbs, including a ban on restaurant dine-ins and suspension of entertainment venues and gyms.

Officials initially said the ramped-up curbs would apply to the traditionally busy Labour Day break ending on Thursday.

"The whole district of Chaoyang and companies in areas where public transport operations have been adjusted will implement home office from May 5," Mr. Xu added, referring to Beijing's most populous district.

Housing compounds where infections have been reported have already been locked down, while Beijingers have started stocking up on essentials over worries they could suddenly be ordered to stay home.

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
AYAPAKKAM, CHENNAI – 600 077

TENDER NOTICE

ICMR - NIE invites bids through Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to procure the following items:

GeM Bid No.	Description	Bid Submission Last Date
GEM/2022/B/2120352	Ultra-Low Temperature Laboratory Freezers	12.05.2022
GEM/2022/B/2141617	Ultra-Low Temperature Laboratory Freezers	20.05.2022
GEM/2022/B/2120222	Double Distillation Unit	12.05.2022
GEM/2022/B/2120162	Spectrophotometer	12.05.2022
GEM/2022/B/2119040	a. Dark field Microscope b. Bright field Microscope	12.05.2022
GEM/2022/B/2119958	Fully automated biochemistry analyzer	12.05.2022
GEM/2022/B/2119381	Biosafety cabinet Class II Type A2	12.05.2022
GEM/2022/B/2118978	Online UPS 20 KVA	12.05.2022
GEM/2022/B/2120447	Gel Documentation System	13.05.2022

For further details please visit **www.gem.gov.in**, **www.nie.gov.in**.
Email ID: **stores@nie.gov.in**
Phone : 044 – 26136 213/262

DIRECTOR

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
Institute Works Department, Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhauri, Bhopal–462 066

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Superintending Engineer, Institute Works Department, IISER Bhopal on behalf of the Board of Governors invites **online percentage rate** tenders for the following works from eligible firms/contractors in two envelopes system.

Sl.No.	NIT No. & Date	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Period
1.	IWD/SE/NIT/2022-23/03 dated 02.05.2022	Operation and maintenance of electrical installations in IISER Bhopal for the year 2022-23.	₹ 93,93,061	₹ 1,87,861	12 months
2.	IWD/SE/NIT/2022-23/04 dated 02.05.2022	Providing services of motor pump operation at IISER Bhopal for the year 2022-23.	₹ 7,07,112	₹ 14,142	12 months

The bids forms and other details for application can be obtained from the website **www.tenderwizard.com/IISERB**. The press notice is also available in Institute website **www.iiserb.ac.in** and website **www.eprocure.gov.in**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan,
Race Course Road, Bangalore – 560 001, Phone No. 080-22265383
website : www.kiadb.in, e-Mail: cof@kiadb.in

No. KIADB/COF/E-Auction-01/1568/2022-23 **Date: 04.05.2022**

PAPER PUBLICATION

This is to inform that Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), intends to invest its Surplus Funds in the short term deposits with Nationalized /Public Sector Banks. The details of the quantum of amount and period to be kept in short term deposits are as under:

Sl.No	Nationalized / Public Sector Banks	Days
1	Rs.400.00 Crores	For 6 Months (181 days) in Nationalized Banks.
	Each FDs will be issued each in Rs.50.00 Crores.	

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the below address: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Schedule of Various Events For e-Auction is as below :

1) Date of E-Auction can be Downloaded: **06.05.2022**
2) Last Date to upload the Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal: **16.05.2022 on or before 15.00 Hrs.**
3) Date and time of opening: **17.05.2022 after 15.30 Hrs**
4) Live Bidding: **19.05.2022 Commences at 11.00 Hrs. & Concludes at 13.00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Controller of Finance, KIADB

DIPR/CP/373/Zenkar/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar - 751 001
Tel. : (0674) 2380950, **Website:** www.osmcl.nic.in, **Email:** drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2022-23/DRUGS-AYUSH-HOMEO/07 **Date: 05/05/2022**

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal** (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for **supply of Homoeopathic medicines and globules as per the particulars mentioned below:**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1	Date & time of release of bid	05/05/2022, 3 PM	
2	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id- drugs-osmcl@gov.in	07/05/2022, up to 5:00 PM	
3	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 10/05/2022, 3 PM	End Date & Time: 31/05/2022, 6.00 PM
4	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time: 01/06/2022, 10 AM	End Date & Time: 08/06/2022, 11.00 AM
5	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	08/06/2022, 11.30 AM	
6	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Managing Director
OSMC Ltd.,Odisha

CAD-407 OIPR-10112/11/0004/2223

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar - 751 001
Tel.:(0674) 2380950, **Website:** www.osmcl.nic.in, **Email:drugs-osmcl@gov.in**

Bid Ref. No.: **OSMCL/2022-23/DRUGS-AYUSH-HOMEO/08** Date: **05/05/2022**

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal** (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for **supply of Plastic Phials as per the particulars mentioned below:**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	05/05/2022, 3PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-mail ID- drugs-osmcl@gov.in	07/05/2022, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 10/05/2022, 3 PM	End Date & Time: 31/05/2022, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document fee as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time: 01/06/2022, 10 AM	End Date & Time: 08/06/2022, 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	08/06/2022, 12:30 PM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites:www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

SD/- Managing Director,
OSMC Ltd., Odisha

CAD-406 OIPR-10112/11/0003/2223

MARKET WATCH

	04-05-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	55,669	-2.29
US Dollar	76.40	0.10
Gold	50,601	-0.66
Brent oil	108.38	0.97

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	812.80	-43.75
Apollo Hosp	4013.30	-291.45
Asian Paints	3100.85	-99.15
Axis Bank	707.20	-20.15
Bajaj Auto	3496.90	-126.55
Bajaj Finserv	14322.45	-635.00
Bajaj Finance	6339.75	-286.40
Bharti Airtel	722.40	-18.95
BPCL	363.45	-3.00
Britannia Ind	3385.45	114.15
Cipla	957.55	-19.05
Coal India	187.35	-0.10
Divis Lab	4144.15	-165.50
Dr Reddys Lab	3992.35	-131.55
Eicher Motors	2483.20	-69.30
Grasim Ind	1622.25	-57.30
HCL Tech	1044.95	-21.95
HDFC	2206.95	-57.05
HDFC Bank	1356.00	-47.70
HDFC Life	567.60	-12.25
Hero MotoCorp	2409.50	-77.80
Hindalco	461.65	-22.75
Hind Unilever	2171.55	-58.95
ICICI Bank	724.25	-16.75
Indusind Bank	978.30	-39.80
Infosys	1535.55	-5.45
ITC	259.75	-3.40
JSW Steel	711.55	-20.40
Kotak Bank	1775.60	1.25
L&T	1633.95	-45.50
M&M	896.10	-25.25
Maruti Suzuki	7397.90	-236.85
Nestle India Ltd.	18087.75	-352.80
NTPC	158.65	1.15
ONGC	162.25	5.90
PowerGrid Corp	237.60	6.05
Reliance Ind	2693.65	-86.80
SBI Life	1077.85	-3.20
State Bank	479.65	-11.35
Shree Cement	25193.50	-1036.70
Sun Pharma	900.90	-22.50
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	803.30	-21.10
Tata Motors	423.50	-9.35
Tata Steel	1261.35	-33.85
TCS	3479.75	-62.65
Tech Mahindra	1212.80	-18.40
Titan	2289.95	-96.60
UltraTech Cement	6521.95	-157.05
UPL	824.20	-6.05
Wipro	491.75	-3.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 04

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	76.21	76.53
Euro	80.25	80.58
British Pound	95.37	95.77
Japanese Yen (100)	58.63	58.88
Chinese Yuan	11.53	11.58
Swiss Franc	77.59	78.02
Singapore Dollar	55.11	55.36
Canadian Dollar	59.48	59.73
Malaysian Ringitt	17.49	17.64
Australian Dollar	54.31	54.54

Source: Indian Bank

'Off-cycle move hints at more aggressive rate increases'

Economists see RBI moving resolutely to slow inflation in the coming months

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The RBI's surprise move to raise the repo rate on Wednesday is a clear signal that it will embark on a series of rate increases in the coming months to counter inflation, said economists at banks.

"Today's surprise move is perhaps instigated by the upcoming April inflation print, which could come in higher – we currently estimate a print of 7.6%," said Abheek Barua, chief economist, HDFC Bank. The sharper-than-expected rate hike "paves the way for a more aggressive rate hike cycle than we earlier expected," he added.

In tow: Not tackling inflation now may jeopardise growth; this will be the main message, says BoB's Sabnavis. •REUTERS

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda said while the increase in the repo rate would help to 'quell the build-up of excess demand pressures and hence slow down inflation', it would have little effect on the components that were being driven by global factors.

"The overarching focus on inflation is significant as it goes back to the normal mandate of the MPC which is to curb inflation as growth seems to be better placed today," Mr. Sabnavis observed. "But not tackling inflation now, growth can be jeopardised. This will be the main message from the so-called interim policy," he added.

'Brake on auto sales'

Meanwhile, automobile retailers said the move would likely dampen auto sales.

"This move will curb excess liquidity in the system and will make auto loans expensive," said FADA President Vinkesh Gulati.

"Certainly, this move will apply certain amount of brakes on auto retail and dampen the sentiments further," he asserted.

RBI move sends stocks into downward spiral

Benchmark indices plunge 2.3%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The sudden decision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to raise interest rates with immediate effect on Wednesday caused a major sell-off in equities.

The last time the repo rate was increased was in August 2018. The off-cycle announcement on Wednesday caught investors by surprise.

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 1,306.96 points, or 2.29%, to 55,669. The top losers were Bajaj Finance (4.29%), Bajaj Finserv (4.18%), Titan (4.11%), IndusInd Bank (3.98%) and HDFC Bank (3.34%). The NSE Nifty-50 index too dropped 2.29% to 16,677.60. "The surprising RBI event in the latter half [of the day] led to sharp correction across the markets. Nifty not only breached its important supports, but it ended well in the red below 16,700," Ruchit Jain, lead research, 5paisa.com, said.

Mitul Shah, head of Research, Reliance Securities, said: "For equities, inflation remains a key overhang".

"Trend in global stock markets, the movement of the rupee and of crude oil prices will dictate the market trend in the near-term," he added.

Wall Street slips ahead of Fed decision

REUTERS

Wall Street's main indices fell on Wednesday as a rise in U.S. Treasury yields hit growth stocks ahead of a widely expected interest-rate increase that could be the biggest since 2000.

Six of the 11 major S&P sectors rose, with energy and utilities leading the gains. The benchmark 10-year yield topped 3% for a third consecutive day.

"There is this expectation that the Fed is going to raise (rates) by 50 basis points and that they're going to start providing more colour on winding down their balance sheet," said Michelle Cluver, portfolio strategist at Global X ETFs. "This is leading to more pressure on growth equities... putting upward pressure on 10-year yields."

Amazon doubles India cumulative export target

E-com firm sets 2025 goal of $20 billion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

E-commerce giant Amazon on Wednesday said it is doubling the target for cumulative exports by Indian exporters to $20 billion by 2025, via its platform.

The U.S.-headquartered firm's founder and CEO Jeff Bezos had in January 2020 announced the firm would enable cumulative exports of $10 billion worth 'make-in-India' goods by 2025.

"Cumulative exports by Indian exporters on the Amazon Global Selling programme are on track to surpass the $5 billion milestone," the company said.

"We are seeing a rapid increase in the number of exporters joining Amazon Global Selling to cater to the growing demand for Made-in-India products across the world," Amit Agarwal, SVP India and Emerging Markets, Amazon, said.

"We are therefore scaling up our pledge to boost exports from India using e-commerce to $20 billion by 2025," he added.

Services exports set a new record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's services exports set a new record of $254.4 billion (about ₹19 lakh crore) in 2021-2022, the Commerce Ministry said on Wednesday.

The exports also hit an all-time monthly high of $26.9 billion in March, the Ministry added.

Telecommunications, computer and information services, other business services and transport were the top contributors to the exports, it added.

"The new record achieved in 2021-22 beats the previous high of $213.2 billion in 2019-20," it said.

'States' off-balance sheet borrowings at decadal high'

Trend will hurt new investments, Crisil cautions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

States have done off-balance-sheet borrowings through various entities in FY22, resulting in a 1 percentage point increase in such hidden loans to 4.5% of GSDP, according to a report on Wednesday.

The report by ratings agency Crisil, based on an analysis of 11 States accounting for three-quarters of GSDP, warned this will impact the badly-needed capital-expansion measures by the States as resources will be ploughed to service debt.

The Indian economy has revived to touch the pre-COVID levels after one year of a decline in the GDP due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Policymakers are betting on capital expansion to accelerate the revival through various measures.

Such borrowing will hit badly-needed capital-expansion measures by the States, it says

The Centre has been trying to decrease its hidden borrowings and show a truer picture of the finances for the last few years.

"These borrowings have been raised by entities owned by States, which also guarantee the loans. Around 4-5% of the revenue of States will go towards servicing such guarantee obligations this fiscal, partially reducing the ability of State governments to fund capital expenditure," the agency said.

The rating agency attributed this behaviour by the States to constrained revenue growth due to the pandemic-induced slowdown, and increasing revenue expenditure.

These two reasons have led to their fiscal deficits rising to close to 4% of GSDP, well above the historical level of 2-3% seen earlier in the last decade, it added.

Growth to be in range of 7-8.5%: CEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran on Wednesday said India's growth is expected to be in the range of 7-8.5% given the global uncertainties.

The International Monetary Fund recently lowered its growth forecast to 8.2% which is higher than 7.2% by the RBI.

"The range of outcomes is fairly wide. Wider than it could ever be and that makes decision making all the more hazardous. Lots of luck is needed to get it right," he said. As per the Economic Survey, India's economy is expected to grow by 8-8.5% in the fiscal beginning April 1.

IN BRIEF

KVB bags two awards for MSME lending

CHENNAI

Karur Vysya Bank has bagged two awards. The Chamber of Indian Micro Small and Medium Enterprises has recognised KVB as the best MSME Friendly Bank (private sector) - runner up and Best Innovative Bank (private sector) - runner up for 2021.

Aurobindo gets U.S. FDA approval for cancer drug

HYDERABAD

Aurobindo Pharma will introduce Bortezomib for injection, 3.5 mg, in the U.S. following receipt of final approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) for the cancer drug. The product has a market size of $1,172 million for the 12 months ended March, it said quoting IQVIA numbers.

Foiled 18 lakh cyberattacks in Jan.-March in India: Norton

'Criminals use deepfakes, romance scams, crypto channels'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Global cybersecurity services provider NortonLifeLock on Wednesday said it had blocked more than 18,013,055 threats - the equivalent of about 195,794 per day - during the first three months of 2022 in India.

Of these, 59,907 were phishing attempts and 31,062 were tech support scams, the firm said, adding that cybercriminals were now deceiving victims using deepfakes and crypto scams to access financial or personal information. Globally, the company blocked more than a billion attacks in the quarter ended March, ie, more than 11 million attacks a day. NortonLifeLock highlighted three different ways that criminals were perpetrating online scams globally - deepfakes, romance scams and crypto scams. Deepfakes, it said, were being used to scam consumers and spread disinformation.

The Norton Labs team has spotted deepfakes used to create fake social media profiles, fuel charity scams and spread propaganda relating to the ongoing war in Ukraine. Norton Labs also tracked $29 million in bitcoin stolen in 2021 and expects this figure to continue to rise in 2022 as the crypto market's value increases and scammers capitalise on world events.

The third channel is the romance fraud that preys on vulnerable people looking for love and connection.

Medimix soap maker eyes ₹500-cr. sales

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

AVA Group, the maker of Medimix ayurvedic soaps, plans to clock 43% growth in business volume to achieve a ₹500 crore turnover by 2025.

"Last fiscal, we posted ₹350 crore revenue, the same as FY21, as our products are needed daily and sales were not affected due to COVID," said Vivek Venugopal, director, business development, AVA Group.

We are aiming for ₹500 crore by 2025." Stating hair-care accounted for a major share of the turnover, he said the focus would be on growing Medimix soaps and alternative-wellness category.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q4 net rises 65% to ₹2,767 cr.

For FY22, PAT rose 23% to ₹8,573 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank on Wednesday reported a 65% jump in its standalone profit after tax to ₹2,767 crore in the quarter ended March, helped by higher growth in net interest income and healthy asset quality.

For the full financial year 2021-22, the bank's profit after tax (PAT) increased by 23% to ₹8,573 crore .

"If you look at our Q4 numbers, our slippages have been extremely under control," the bank's MD and CEO Uday Kotak told reporters. "On an annualised basis our slippage ratio is 1.08%. Our slippage ratio actually now demonstrates that the quality of our credit book is extremely robust as we exit COVID."

Consolidated PAT for Q4 FY22 was ₹3,892 crore, up 50% from ₹2,589 crore in the fourth quarter of FY21. For the entire FY22, consolidated PAT rose to ₹12,089 crore from ₹9,990 crore in FY21.

Piramal gets board nod to raise ₹700 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Piramal Enterprises Ltd. on Wednesday said the administrative committee of its board of directors has approved raising of up to ₹700 crore through the issue of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) on a private placement basis.

The committee in its meeting held on Wednesday approved the issuance of the NCDs on a private placement basis, Piramal Enterprises said in a regulatory filing.

The size of the issue is up to ₹50 crore along with an option to retain over subscription of up to ₹650 crore, aggregating up to ₹700 crore, it added.

SPORT

Roland Garros prize money to increase

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS

The prize money at Roland Garros is to increase by nearly seven percent to €43.6 million compared to the pre-coronavirus edition of 2019.

The French Tennis Federation on Wednesday said that the rise is 6.8% overall compared to three years ago, when the tournament was last held in normal circumstances before the pandemic affected the past two editions.

Prize money for players in the men's and women's singles main draw is 1.43% higher overall than in 2019, while doubles players will get 6.1% more.

The men's and women's singles champions will take home €2.2 million each.

Liverpool's 'Mentality monsters' barge their way into the final

Klopp's men stage a remarkable recovery after being pegged back by a stirring first-half battle from Villarreal

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
VILLARREAL

Fifty-seven games into a gruelling season Liverpool could have crumbled when its 2-0 first-leg lead was wiped out before half-time by an inspired Villarreal playing to reach its first-ever Champions League final.

Instead, the Reds will be in European club football's showpiece occasion for the third time in five seasons after it hit back to win Tuesday's game 3-2 and progress from the semifinal 5-2 on aggregate.

"Before the game I told the boys that I would like to read the headlines that 'the mentality monsters were in town'," said beaming Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

The biggest surprise was that there was ever any doubt about Liverpool's safe passage to Paris on May 28.

In 28 games in 2022 prior to Tuesday's match in Spain, Klopp's men had trailed for a total of 53 minutes.

David vs Goliath

But for just short of an hour they were behind at the Estadio de la Ceramica as David threatened to slay Goliath thanks to first-half goals from Boulaye Dia and Francis Coquelin.

However, the vast gulf in resources between the clubs showed when Klopp unleashed £50 million January signing Luis Diaz at the break.

The Colombian, together with some generous goalkeeping from Villarreal stopper Geronimo Rulli, turned the game back in Liverpool's favour as Fabinho, Diaz and Sadio Mane scored three goals in 12 minutes.

In elite company

Klopp's fourth Champions League final matches the current record for a coach set by the late Miguel Munoz, Marcelo Lippi, Alex Ferguson and Carlo Ancelotti.

Based in a city of 50,000 people in southern Spain, Villarreal had eliminated Juventus in the round of 16 and Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals.

Unai Emery's team played a man down from the 86th after Etienne Capoue, who assisted on both Villarreal's goals, was sent off with a second yellow card.

The result (semifinal, second leg):

Villarreal 2 (Dia 3, Coquelin 41) lost to Liverpool 3 (Fabinho 62, Diaz 67, Mane 74). *Liverpool won 5-2 on aggregate.*

The clincher: Mane evades Villarreal 'keeper Rulli to score Liverpool's third and final goal. •GETTY IMAGES

Madhavan finishes fourth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's T. Madhavan and Muna Nayak finished fourth and sixth respectively in the men's 61kg category at the IWF junior World weightlifting championships at Heraklion, Greece.

The 18-year-old Madhavan aggregated 263kg (118kg+145kg) to finish fourth, missing the podium by 5kg on Tuesday. Muna totalled 258kg (113kg+145kg) to end sixth in the 10-man field. The 19-year-old failed to lift 150kg in his final clean and jerk attempt. Had he succeeded, he would have won silver.

The gold went to USA's Hampton Morris who lifted 276kg (116kg+160kg). He smashed the clean and jerk junior men's World record when he lifted 160kg.

Royal Challengers gets the better of Super Kings, moves to fourth

Riding on good knocks from du Plessis, Lomror and Karthik, the Bengaluru side posts 173 and restricts Chennai to 160; Harshal and Maxwell derail the chase

IPL 2022

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

Glenn Maxwell emerged the unlikely hero as Royal Challengers Bangalore outwitted Chennai Super Kings in a spin battle and ended its losing streak in the Indian Premier League on Wednesday.

Maxwell's two for 22 off his four overs, aided by Harshal Patel's three for 35 and Josh Hazlewood's spell (4-0-19-1), meant that the Royal Challengers successfully defended a total of 173 for eight. Despite Devon Conway's superb knock, the Chennai side fell 13 runs short.

Turning it around: Harshal and Maxwell delivered the goods as Royal Challengers ended its losing streak. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Back in business

While the win resurrected Royal Challengers' campaign after a hat-trick of losses, Super Kings was pushed to the brink of elimination as it suffered its seventh loss in 10 games. The Bengaluru team climbed to fourth while the Chennai side continued to languish in the ninth spot.

Soon after Ruturaj Gaikwad fell to left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed, Maxwell struck in his first two overs. Robin Uthappa played an uppish cut straight to point before Ambati Rayudu missed a cut and was bowled.

Super Kings slid from 54 for no loss in the seventh over to 75 for three in the 10th over. Conway kept the chase going before he played one sweep too many and was dismissed by Wanindu Hasaranga.

Hazlewood and Harshal, arguably the most effective death-bowling pace duo in the competition, ensured that they defended 52 off the last four overs. Neither Super Kings captain M.S. Dhoni nor all-rounder Dwayne Pretorius were allowed to employ the long handle.

Spinners' day out

Despite the RCB pacers' impressive performance, the night belonged to the spinners from both teams. The Super Kings trio of Moeen Ali (who replaced Mitchell Santner), Maheesh Thikshana and Ravindra Jadeja dominated the proceedings in the first half of the contest. The three conceded just 75 runs and claimed five wickets in their 12 overs to spin Super Kings back into the game after Faf du Plessis' flurry in the PowerPlay.

Kohli wasn't at his fluent best, playing 16 dot balls before being cleaned up by Moeen. He was done in by one that turned just enough to crash into the stumps through the gate. In between, Kohli's slap-shot for six off the backfoot over cover off Simarjeet stood out.

At the other end, du Plessis went after the inexperienced Indian speedsters, his lofted drive off Mukesh over long-on the highlight.

Moeen strikes

However, in Moeen's first over, the South African mistimed a heave and was pouched by Jadeja at deep midwicket.

Even before Moeen snared Kohli in his next over, Glenn Maxwell was run out while going for a non-existent single.

Mahipal Lomror then justified his promotion ahead of Rajat Patidar with a knock that proved a game-changer.

Dinesh Karthik's cameo at the death – he slammed two sixes as 16 came off the 20th over bowled by Pretorius – gave Royal Challengers the impetus it needed. The bowlers then took over

Dhoni and CSK - a 200-strong bond

Dhoni became the second player, after Virat Kohli, to play 200 IPL matches for a franchise. A look at his journey with the Yellow Army

Year	M	Inns	Runs	Avg.	Strike Rate	Ct	St
2008	16	14	414	41.40	133.55	6	0
2009	14	13	332	41.50	127.20	4	4
2010	13	11	287	31.89	136.67	5	6
2011	16	13	392	43.56	158.70	5	5
2012	19	17	358	29.83	128.78	12	2
2013	18	16	461	41.91	162.90	16	1
2014	16	15	371	74.20	148.40	3	1
2015	17	17	372	31.00	121.97	8	3
2018	16	15	455	75.83	150.66	11	3
2019	15	12	416	83.20	134.63	11	5
2020	14	12	200	25.00	116.28	15	1
2021	16	11	114	16.29	106.54	13	0
2022	10	9	142	28.40	130.28	5	0
Overall	200	175	4314	40.31	137.25	114	31

Kohli has played 218 games for RCB

COMPILED BY MAYANK CHAUDHARY

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli b Moeen 30 *(33b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Faf du Plessis c Jadeja b Moeen 38 *(22b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Glenn Maxwell run out 3 *(3b)*, Mahipal Lomror c Ruturaj b Theekshana 42 *(27b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Rajat Patidar c Mukesh b Pretorius 21 *(15b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 26 *(17b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Wanindu Hasaranga c Ruturaj b Theekshana 0 *(1b)*, Shahbaz Ahmed b Theekshana 1 *(2b)*, Harshal Patel run out 0 *(0b)*, Mohammed Siraj (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-5, w-7): 12; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 173.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-62 (du Plessis, 7.2 overs), 2-76 (Maxwell, 8.6), 3-79 (Kohli, 9.5), 4-123 (Patidar, 15.1), 5-155 (Lomror, 18.1), 6-155 (Hasaranga, 18.2), 7-157 (Shahbaz, 18.6), 8-171 (Harshal, 19.5).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Mukesh 3-0-30-0, Simarjeet 2-0-21-0, Theekshana 4-0-27-3, Jadeja 4-0-20-0, Moeen 4-0-28-2, Pretorius 3-0-42-1.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Ruturaj Gaikwad c sub (Prabhudessai) b Shahbaz 28 *(23b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Devon Conway c Shahbaz b Hasaranga 56 *(37b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Robin Uthappa c sub (Prabhudessai) b Maxwell 1 *(3b)*, Ambati Rayudu b Maxwell 10 *(8b, 1x6)*, Moeen Ali c Siraj b Harshal 34 *(27b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Kohli b Harshal 3 *(5b)*, M.S. Dhoni c Patidar b Hazlewood 2 *(3b)*, Dwaine Pretorius c Kohli b Harshal 13 *(8b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Simarjeet Singh (not out) 2 (2b), Maheesh Theekshana (not out) 7 *(4b, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-4): 4; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 160.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-54 (Ruturaj, 6.4), 2-59 (Uthappa, 7.2), 3-75 (Rayudu, 9.4), 4-109 (Conway, 14.1), 5-122 (Jadeja, 15.6), 6-133 (Moeen, 17.2), 7-135 (Dhoni, 18.1), 8-149 (Pretorius, 19.2).

RCB BOWLING

Shahbaz 3-0-27-1, Hazlewood 4-0-19-1, Siraj 2-0-22-0, Hasaranga 3-0-31-1, Maxwell 4-0-22-2, Harshal 4-0-35-3.

Toss: CSK; **MoM:** Harshal.

RCB won by 13 runs.

Innings scan

RCB		CSK
41	Dots	44
12	Fours	12
7	Sixes	8
57/0	PP	51/0
8.65	RR	8.00

Next assignment

RCB: May 8 vs. **SRH** Wankhede, 3.30 p.m.

CSK: May 8 vs. **DC** DY Patil, 7.30 p.m.

Warner vs Sunrisers promises exciting action

It will be interesting to see how the Capitals opener fares against his former franchise

Battle on: Warner will be eager to fire on all cylinders against Williamson's men. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MUMBAI

During Sunrisers Hyderabad's campaign in the previous edition of the IPL, two images stood out. One warmed the heart while the other tugged at it a bit.

The sight of an unknown Umran Malik racing up to the wicket and releasing those thunderbolts excited not just the SRH fans, but almost everyone except the batters facing him.

The other image was an SRH team without David Warner inside the stadium.

The Aussie opener, who had been at Hyderabad since 2014 and led the franchise to its only title in 2016, was forced to watch his team's matches in the latter part of the tournament from his hotel room.

Warner has since joined Delhi Capitals. On Thursday night at the Brabourne Stadium here, he will face some familiar faces as Sunrisers takes on Capitals, with both sides looking to bounce back after losing their last matches (to Chennai Super Kings and Lucknow Super Giants respectively).

Close race

With the race for the playoff spots hotting up, Sunrisers is on 10 points and Capitals eight.

Rishabh Pant's men will want Warner to continue his good run, his opening partner Prithvi Shaw to return to form and the skipper himself to explode.

The team will also look to Kuldeep Yadav, who has taken 17 wickets so far, to spearhead the attack again.

Pace the ace

For Sunrisers, pace has been the ace this season, with Umran and T. Natarajan taking 32 wickets between them.

In batting, the in-form duo of Abhishek Sharma and Aiden Markram will be keen to continue their form and also expect the others to fire.

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans	10	8	2	16	0.158
Lucknow Super Giants	10	7	3	14	0.397
Rajasthan Royals	10	6	4	12	0.340
Royal Challengers Bangalore	11	6	5	12	-0.444
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	5	4	10	0.471
Punjab Kings	10	5	5	10	-0.229
Delhi Capitals	9	4	5	8	0.587
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	6	8	0.060
Chennai Super Kings	10	3	7	6	-0.431
Mumbai Indians	9	1	8	2	-0.836

AFTER THE RCB-CSK MATCH ON MAY 4

TODAY'S MATCH

DELHI CAPITALS vs. SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

BRABOURNE, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 20

DC 9 | SRH 11

PREVIOUS MEETING

DC won by eight wickets, 2021

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

India finishes 2021-22 season as World's No. 1 T20I team

Australia, NZ lead Test and ODI rankings respectively

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

India, under new captain Rohit Sharma, finished the 2021-22 season as the World's No. 1 ranked T20I team after a string of impressive performances at home but was a good nine points behind Australia in the annual Test rankings released by ICC on Wednesday.

The Black Caps from New Zealand finished the last season as the World No. 1 ODI team with the cut-off date being May 4, 2022.

India remained on top in T20Is, extending the lead over second-placed England from one to five points. South Africa and Australia have overtaken New Zealand, which is now in sixth place. Similarly, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are now ahead of Afghanistan (10th).

In the updated ODI rankings, New Zealand remains on top but its lead over England is reduced from three to one point. The gap between England and third-placed Australia has increased from seven to 17 points.

Numero uno: The Men in Blue retained their top ranking with a string of impressive performances. • FILE PHOTO

Widening the gap

"Australia have increased their lead over second-placed India from one to nine rating points while Pakistan have overtaken England to fifth position in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings following the annual update carried out today," the ICC release stated.

"India have also gained a point to move to 119 while England have had the biggest decrease of nine points as their 4-1 series win over India in 2018 is now dropped from the rankings. England's 88 rating points is their lowest since 1995," the release added.

Maradona's 'hand of God' jersey fetches $9.3 million

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

The jersey that Argentina football legend Diego Maradona wore when scoring twice against England in the 1986 World Cup, including the infamous 'hand of God' goal, was auctioned for $9.3 million, a record for any item of sports memorabilia, auction Sotheby's said on Wednesday.

The previous record for a game-worn shirt was $5.6 million, set in 2019 for a jersey Babe Ruth wore for the NY Yankees.

BCCI bans journalist for 2 years for 'bullying' Saha

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has banned journalist Boria Majumdar for two years after an internal inquiry found him guilty of attempting to "threaten and intimidate" wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha.

The BCCI apex council, during its meeting last week, considered the report of a three-member committee and decided to ban Majumdar from being involved in any cricket or interviewing cricketers for two years.

"The BCCI Committee considered the submissions by both Saha and Majumdar and concluded that the actions by Majumdar were indeed in the nature of threat and intimidation.

The BCCI Committee recommended the following sanctions to the Apex Council of BCCI," Hemang Amin, interim chief executive, wrote in an email to the members.

"(1) Two-year ban on getting any accreditation as a member of the press in any of the cricket matches (domestic & international) in India. (2) Two-year ban on getting any interview with any registered players in India. (3) Two-year ban on access to any of BCCI and members associations owned cricket facilities."

In February, Saha had shared screenshots of text messages by a "respected journalist" on his social media feed. It prompted BCCI to constitute a three-member committee to look into the matter.

Nadal shows little sign of rust on return

Djokovic sets up a last-16 clash with Murray, who beat Shapovalov

MADRID OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Rafael Nadal enjoyed a winning return after a six-week injury break, opening his Madrid campaign with a 6-1, 7-6(4) success over Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic on Wednesday.

The Spanish star had been sidelined with a rib injury since his Indian Wells final defeat in March but showed little sign of rust as he skipped into the third round.

The 22-year-old Kecmanovic entered the match carrying the second-highest tally of wins on Tour this season – his 23 victories placing him just one behind Andrey Rublev, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Carlos Alcaraz.

Nadal, a three-time title winner in 2022, improved to 21-1 for the year and faces David Goffin.

Back with a bang: Nadal cruised past Kecmanovic despite facing some resistance from the Serb in the second set. • AFP

Second-seeded Alexander Zverev began his title defence with a hard-fought 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over former US Open champion Marin Cilic.

The German is a two-time Madrid champion and now owns a 16-2 win-loss record at the Caja Magica.

Top seed Novak Djokovic described his straight-sets opening win over Gael Monfils in Madrid on Tuesday as his "best performance of the year" as he set up a showdown with Andy Murray.

The 20-time Major champion ensured he would keep his No. 1 ranking for at least another week by extending his winning record against Monfils with a 6-3, 6-2 victory.

Djokovic had to save two break points as he served for the match before he booked a last-16 clash with Murray, a 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 winner against Canadian 14th seed Denis Shapovalov.

It will be the first meeting between Djokovic and Murray since the Doha final in January 2017.

The results: Second round: Norrie bt Isner 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-4; Nadal bt Kecmanovic 6-1, 7-6 (4); Goffin bt van de Zandschulp 6-4, 6-2; Hurkacz bt Davidovich Fokina 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (5); Dimitrov bt Schwartzman 6-0, 6-3.

Lajovic bt Ruud 7-6(7), 2-6, 6-4; Evans bt Bautista Agut 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(2); Zverev bt Cilic 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; Djokovic bt Monfils 6-3, 6-2; Murray bt Shapovalov 6-1, 3-6, 6-2; Alcaraz bt Basilashvili 6-3, 7-5; Rublev bt Draper 2-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Kamalpreet provisionally suspended

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Olympian discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur has been provisionally suspended by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for testing positive for a banned substance.

The AIU updated the news on its website on Wednesday.

Kamalpreet, who was tested on March 29, was suspended for the presence/use of prohibited substance stanozolol in her sample, a breach of the World Athletics anti-doping rules.

Kamalpreet had made it to the Tokyo Olympics final, finishing sixth with a throw of 63.7m.

However, it is likely that her result in the Games will not be affected by the doping case.

TV PICKS

FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Conference League: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)
Europa League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF

Morant helps Grizzlies level series with Warriors

MEMPHIS

Ja Morant erupted for 47 points as the Memphis Grizzlies outmuscled Golden State Warriors to level their Western Conference NBA playoff series with a bruising 106-101 victory on Tuesday. .
The results: EC: Milwaukee 86 lost to Boston 109. Series 1-1; **WC:** Golden State 101 lost to Memphis 106. Series 1-1. AFP

F1 pioneer Tony Brooks passes away

LONDON

Motorsport pioneer Tony Brooks, who won six Formula One grands prix in the 1950s, and was nicknamed the "Racing Dentist", has died aged 90. The Briton, the last surviving Formula One race winner of the 1950s, is widely bracketed with Stirling Moss as the best British drivers never to have won a Formula One world championship. AFP

Bournemouth promoted to Premier League

LONDON

Bournemouth beat Nottingham Forest 1-0 on Tuesday to earn promotion to the Premier League after two seasons in the second-tier Championship. The Cherries join Fulham in the English top flight next season. AFP

Vaishali wins Fischer memorial title

The Indian, who edged Milikow a superior tie-break count, makes her second GM-norm

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

Superb display: R. Vaishali performed at 2596 to gain 21 rating points. • FILE PHOTO: H. VIBHU

International Master R. Vaishali made her second Grandmaster-norm on her way to the 8th Fischer memorial round-robin chess title in Heraklion, Greece, on Tuesday.

In the 10-player event, Vaishali scored seven points from nine rounds. Though tied for the title with Israel's Yoav Milikow, Vaishali was adjudged the champion on superior tie-break count.

She opened her campaign with a draw, lost the second round and then won five rounds on the trot. Vaishali's winning sequence snapped following an eighth-round draw with Greek GM Ioannis Nikolaidis. But the Chennai girl returned to beat French rival Marco Materia in the final round for the title.

Rated 2411, Vaishali performed at 2596 to gain 21 rating points. Her second GM-norm comes almost three years after the first attained in the 2019 Xtracon Chess Open in Denmark. To become a Grandmaster, Vaishali needs to raise her rating to 2500 and come up with another GM-norm performance.

Winning start for Arjun

Sixth seed Arjun Erigaisi continued his march towards the coveted 2700-mark in rating by upstaging Alexei Shirov in 41 moves in the first round of the TePe Sigeman round-robin chess tournament in Malmo, Sweden, on Tuesday.

The National champion, rated 2675, is part of a strong 8-player field that not only presents a good mix of youth and experienced campaigners but also boasts of an average rating of 2681.

The victory over the 2000 World championship runner-up to Viswanathan Anand has helped the 18-year-old reach 58th in the live rankings of the world.

The only other winner of the day was Arjun's second round rival and fourth seed Saleh Salem (UAE). The tournament regulations prohibit players from agreeing to a draw before the 41st move.

The results: First round: Arjun Erigaisi bt Alexei Sherov (Esp); Saleh Salem (UAE) bt David Navara (Cze); Hans Moke Niemann (USA) drew with Michael Adams (Eng); Nils Grandelius (Swe) drew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned).

Gukesh leads

D. Gukesh scored his fourth victory in five rounds by dismissing Georgian Grandmaster Nino Batsiashvili in 39 moves to emerge as the leader at 4.5 points in the Chessable Sunway International chess tournament in Punta Prima, Spain, on Tuesday.

The other four overnight leaders, including K. Sasikiran, were involved in draws on the top two boards.

Playing black, Sasikiran drew with Ruiz Miguel Santos (Spain) in 21 moves while Soham Das got the better of Oleg Romanishin (Ukr) in 53 moves for a third straight victory.

Railways claims title

Smriti's knock in vain for Maharashtra

Triumphant: The victorious Railways squad. • INSTAGRAM/POONAM YADAV

WOMEN'S T20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SURAT

Maharashtra skipper Smriti Mandhana's 84 went in vain as Railways defeated Maharashtra by seven wickets to win the senior women's T20 tournament here on Wednesday.

Electing to bat, Maharashtra rode on Smriti's 84 (56b, 11x4, 3x6) to post a challenging 160 for four.

In reply, opener S. Meghana (52) and D. Hemalatha (65) slammed half centuries as Railways chased down the target with 11 balls to spare. Smriti forged a 74-run stand with opener Shivali Shinde (30).

For Railways, off-spinner Swagatika Rath was the pick of bowlers with three for 33.

Chasing a target of 161, Railways opener Meghana pummelled a 32-ball fifty, striking nine boundaries.

One-down D. Hemalatha, whose knock was studded with nine boundaries and two maximums, took the game deep. She was dismissed in the 17th over, but by then the damage had been done.

The scores: Maharashtra 160/4 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 84, Shivali Shinde 30, Swagatika Rath 3/33) lost to Railways 165/3 in 18.1 overs (S. Meghana 52, D. Hemalatha 65).

Sri Lanka lacks strong leaders: Ranatunga

Former skipper blames cricket board for the current state of affairs

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Arjuna Ranatunga is synonymous with a glorious phase in Sri Lankan cricket. He led the team to the 1996 ODI World Cup title – a momentous achievement that transformed the nation from minnow to powerhouse.

An astute leader and gritty batter, Ranatunga is credited with identifying and developing several talented youngsters who would later go on to represent Sri Lanka with distinction. This sort of long-term planning is missing in the current set up, Ranatunga said.

Ranatunga visited the Karnataka Olympic Bhavan here, and was shown around the premises by Karnataka Olympic Association President K.Govindraj.

Promoting youngsters

"When I retired, there were about four or five cricketers who had been groomed to fill my place. The same applied when Aravinda (de Silva) retired. Up to 2015, we had really good teams which promoted young guys.

"Unfortunately, after 2015, we did not groom future captains and players. That is the reason we have had about 10-12 captains in the last seven years. I captained the side for about 11 years. Sanath (Jayasuriya), (Kumar) Sangakkara, (Marvan) Atapattu, Mahela (Jayawardene) - they all captained for at least four to five years. Every team needs strong leaders. This is where we are lacking," Ranatunga, 58, said.

"In the 1996 World Cup, I batted at two-drop. I then shifted down to six to get Mahela in at five. That's how you build a team for the future. Nobody asked me to step down the order, especially after having won a World Cup as captain, but that's what a good leader does," Ranatunga said.

"When you play cricket, you think of tomorrow, not today. Now, everyone is after their own personal glory. And our cricket board is the most corrupt institution in the country.

"They have messed up everything. We produce several young talented cricketers, but they are managed very badly," Ranatunga added.

Frankspeak: Arjuna Ranatunga during his visit to the Karnataka Olympic Bhavan in Bengaluru on Tuesday. • PTI

Karunaratne to lead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Dimuth Karunaratne will lead Sri Lanka's 18-man squad in Bangladesh for the two-match Test series starting next week, selectors said on Wednesday.

The squad: Dimuth Karunaratne, (Capt.), Kamil Mishara, Oshada Fernando, Angelo Mathews, Kusal Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva, Kamindu Mendis, Niroshan Dickwella, Dinesh Chandimal, Ramesh Mendis, Chamika Karunaratne, Suminda Lakshan, Kasun Rajitha, Vishwa Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Dilshan Madushanka, Praveen Jayawickrama and Lasith Embuldeniya.

Williamson returns for England tour

Ajaz Patel makes a comeback

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WELLINGTON

Spinner Ajaz Patel will return to the New Zealand cricket team for its three-test tour to England next month.

New Zealand on Wednesday named an extended 20-man squad for the tour, designed to cover the early absence of players involved in the Indian Premier League.

Those players will miss New Zealand's warm-up matches and the squad will be trimmed to 15 before the first Test starting on June 2 at Lord's.

The squad includes off-spin all-rounder Michael Bracewell, wicketkeeper-batsman Cam Fletcher and pace bowler Blair Tickner, who will be touring with New Zealand for the first time.

Captain Kane Williamson will rejoin the side at the end of the IPL. He played the first Test against India last year but hasn't played a Test since because of an elbow injury.

Kane Williamson. • GETTY IMAGES

The squad: Kane Williamson (Capt.), Will Young, Tom Latham, Hamish Rutherford, Devon Conway, Henry Nicholls, Daryl Mitchell, Michael Bracewell, Tom Blundell, Colin de Grandhomme, Rachin Ravindra, Cam Fletcher, Kyle Jamieson, Matt Henry, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Ajaz Patel, Blair Tickner, Jacob Duffy and Trent Boult.

Frankfurt and Leipzig hold the advantage

EUROPA LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

West Ham United and Rangers must both overturn first-leg deficits against German opposition on Thursday if they are to reach the Europa League final.

Eintracht Frankfurt has the initiative as it prepares to host West Ham after winning 2-1 in their semifinal first leg in London last week with goals from Borussia Dortmund loanee Ansgar Knauff and Japan midfielder Daichi Kamada.

Having knocked out Barcelona in the last eight, it is eyeing a first European final since defeating Borussia Monchengladbach to win the UEFA Cup in 1980.

"This is the most important game of the season for us. We want to get to the final," insisted Swiss midfielder Djibril Sow after Frankfurt lost 2-0 at Bayer Leverkusen on Monday with a much-changed team from the first leg.

Standing in its way is a West Ham side which has knocked out Sevilla and Lyon in the last two rounds and is itself targeting a first European final in 46 years.

Rangers, UEFA Cup runner-up in 2008, welcomes RB Leipzig to Ibrox looking to turn around its 1-0 loss in Germany.

Today's fixtures:

Rangers v RB Leipzig; Eintracht Frankfurt v West Ham United.

Yuki-Ramkumar duo enters quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Yuki Bhambri and Ramkumar Ramanathan defeated Gregoire Barrere and Constant Lestienne 6-1, 7-6 (3) to reach the doubles quarterfinals of the € 90,280 Challenger tennis tournament in Aix-en-Provence (France).

The results:

€90,280 Challenger, Aix-en-Provence, France:

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Yuki Bhambri & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Gregoire Barrere & Constant Lestienne (Fra) 6-1, 7-6(3).

Rafael Matos (Bra) & David Vega Hernandez (Esp) bt Artemm Sitak (Nzl) & Divij Sharan 6-3, 6-3.

€45,730 Challenger, Prague: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Marius Copil (Rou) & Max Purcell (Aus) bt Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) & Vishnu Vardhan 6-4, 6-3; Nicholas Monroe (USA) & Fernando Romboli (Bra) bt Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 7-6(5), 6-2.

$25,000 ITF women, Daytona Beach: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Reese Brantmeier & Elvina Kalieva (USA) bt Maria Kononova (Rus) & Sharmada Balu 6-2, 6-4.

Elizabeth Hallbauer (USA) & Riya Bhatia bt Anastasia Sysoeva (Rus) & Sravya Shivani 4-6, 6-0, [10-4].

$25,000 ITF women, Tossa de Mar, Spain (first round): Pembra Ozgen (Tur) bt Sowjanya Bavisetti 6-0, 6-2.

$25,000 ITF women, Monastir: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Wang Meiling & Yao Xinxin (Chn) bt Smriti Bhasin & Sahaja Yamalapalli 7-5, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF women, Cairo (first round): Anastasia Zolotareva bt Shreya Tatavarthy 6-4, 6-2.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Pooja to lead Karnataka

M.D. Pooja will lead the Karnataka women's team at the 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship in Bhopal from May 6 17.

Karnataka is placed in Pool-F alongside Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar.

The squad:

M.D. Pooja (capt.), G.B. Shravya, M.P. Shaina Thangamma, Hema Ashok Happali, H.R. Anjali, M.G. Yashika, B.N. Poojitha, S.D. Sandhya, K.R. Kavya, S. Adira, Padmavathi S. Madli, S.P. Likhitha, K.A. Deepthi, H.G. Dhanushree, Leelavati Koppad, B.A. Shaya Kaveramma, P.C. Nisha, K.S. Vidya; **Coach:** Verghese John; **Manager:** Rakhee Poovanna.

Ishaan and Pranav sizzle

Half-centuries from Ishaan Nayak (90) and Pranav N. Deshkulkarni (67) set up Magadi CA's thumping 136-run win over Panthers CA in an under-14 match of the Tiger Cup cricket tournament on Wednesday.

The scores:

U-14: MCA 218/5 in 30 overs (Ishaan Nayak 90, Pranav N. Deshkulkarni 67) bt Panthers CA 82 in 28 overs (Krish Rao 3/17).

U-12: PCA 126/8 in 30 overs (Siddarth Ram 31) lost to MCA 127/3 in 21.2 overs (Atharv Srinath 27).

Lalmuanzova scores four in Friends United's big win

Lalmuanzova scored four goals as Friends United FC thrashed South United FC 5-1 in the BDFA A-division league championship on Wednesday.

The results:

Rebels 5 (Fazal Zafa Konan 2, 59, Zonunmawa 18, 39, Donboklang Lyngobh 60) bt Postal Dept. 0.

AGORC 3 (Jayakumar 31, Jones Antony 48, Sudarshan V. Lokur 67) bt BTM 2 (Akshay Kumar Dosapati 23, 73).

Friends United 5 (Lalmuanzova Khawalhring 2, 10, 48, 61, Shivakumar 62) bt South United 1 (Leynold Carol Mark 80).

Bangalore Gunners 1 (N. Sanjeevi 80+1) bt RWF O.

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